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A FISHERMAN PUBLICATION

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

April 16th, 1981 ★ Volume 16, Number 15 ★ 16th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-CENTS

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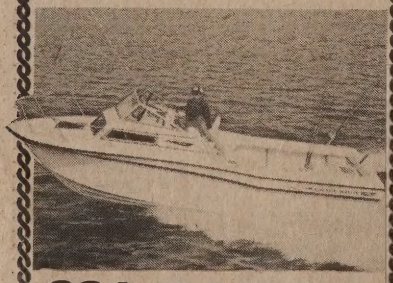

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EDITORIAL

LONG ISLAND YOUTH FISHING CLINIC — MAY 2

Anyone who has been fishing for any length of time surely has a treasure trove of fond memories to reflect on. For some, those recollections are of trips made in the company of special friends; for others it might be reliving those knee-knocking minutes when a trophy catch was dragged over the gunnel or slid ashore. Then there are some who draw their greatest satisfaction from those special moments that only the great outdoors can provide. A collage of solitude, awe-inspiring sunsets and soaring gulls provide relief from the humdrum machinations of daily life. As Herbert Hoover once described it, "fishing to cleanse the soul."

Being blessed with a childhood full of these treasures to draw upon has provided a deep appreciation of just how valuable the "fishing experience" can be to a youngster. Fishing, when properly presented, can provide the much needed stimulus of self-accomplishment, along with developing a deep-rooted respect for the ecology of Long Island.

The key to the formula is that early trips should leave a positive impression on the child. "Positive" does not mean landing a forty pound striper on the first trip out, although it certainly wouldn't hurt matters any. Youngsters are easily satisfied by anything with fins and sea robins, bergalls, sand sharks, perch and catfish are just as significant as the glamour species in the beginning. Providing adequate equipment for the job at hand adds to the enjoyment too. Probably the most important ingredient though, is the person or persons with whom the young angler shares those first trips. The individual does not have to be an expert by any means, but any knowledge that can be passed along helps to reinforce the experience.

It was with all of the above in mind that the **Long Island Youth Fishing Clinic** was born. The Long Island Fisherman, in cooperation with the Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission, will be **sponsoring** the one-day affair at Heckscher State Park on Saturday, May 2. The event will begin at 10AM and will run until 4PM. Site of the clinic, which is free, will be Overlook Parking Field #8. There will be no charge for parking or entrance to the park.

Designed to provide youngsters with individual instruction in such areas as knot-tying, rod building, fly-tying, tackle selection, and spin, bait, and fly casting, the clinic will also afford these young anglers the opportunity to meet with members of the LIF staff. Among those who will be available to answer questions and help out at the affair will be "Doc" Muller, Matt Ahern, Al Ristori, Fred Guardineer, and Yours Truly.

A special treat will be provided by members of the "Striper Surf Club," who will be there with the Club's famous "Fishing Machine." Youngsters will be given an opportunity to test their skills on the same electronic marvel which entertained thousands at the recent Long Island Boat Show. In addition every boy and girl will receive a free gift, courtesy of The Long Island Fisherman, when they register on May 2.

In the event of rain, the clinic will go on as scheduled since much of the instruction area will be indoors. And yes, adults are welcome if accompanied by a youngster.

Fred P. Golofaro

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

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About the Cover—

This lone angler chose the quiet solitude of a Long Island estuary in his pursuit of spring-run flatties. Photo by Dr. William A. Muller

COMING NEXT WEEK: **BOB WHITTIER ON BOATING**

Richard Reina PUBLISHER
Al Ristori ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
W.A. Muller MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Fred Golofaro EDITOR
Carolyn Brewer ART DIRECTOR
Rick S. Reina PRODUCTION MANAGER

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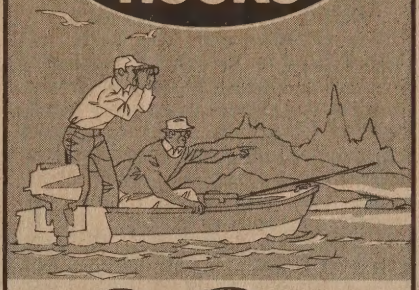
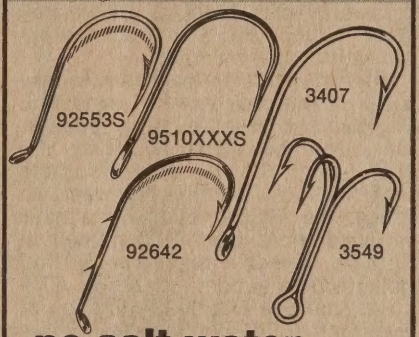
MUSTAD SALT WATER HOOKS





no salt water lure is any better than its hook

That's why most salt water anglers and lure manufacturers rely on Mustad's sturdy wires and corrosion-resistant finishes for the most dependable hooks. All tackle box favorites, here's a selection of patterns and finishes used for a host of salt water fishes from porgy to marlin.

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Pass It On...

STRIPED BASS PROGRAM CUT BY CARTER, REAGAN

One of President Carter's last official acts to to send Congress a proposal to rescind billions of dollars of budget authority previously provided to Congress. The proposed rescission would affect the emergency striped bass program ($750 thousand); marine resources monitoring, assessment and prediction ($3.175 million); Regional Fishery Management Councils ($500 thousand); miscellaneous fisheries programs ($2.4 million) and Sea Grant marine education ($3.0 million).

At the time Carterites hoped to take some of the steam out of candidate Reagan's budget cutting boasts. Obviously they failed to assess the real extent of President Reagan's intentions. In their first few weeks in office, the Reagan budgeteers have targeted more than $100 million in cuts to Carter's proposed billion dollar NOAA budget including a 50% slice from Sea Grant, termination of the Coastal Energy Impact Program and coastal zone management programs. According to **Ocean Science News**, some 675 NOAA jobs have been earmarked as expendable and another 300 may be added to the lot.

While the first exposure left many NOAA bureaucrats shivering, not all of the NOAA constituency was dismayed. One National Federation of Fishermen (NFF) spokesman remarked, "Sure, some of our pet programs are going to get cut back, but if it means getting rid of some of those pants-polishing cookie pushers who have never smelled saltwater, but keep trying to tell us how to fish, then it's got to be worth the price." Coalition President Frank Carlton was less sanguine. "As far as NMFS is concerned, most of the fat's in Washington," he said, "but so is the seniority. The axe will fall in the regional offices where a lot of the really able NMFS junior people are." At least one report suggested that personnel cuts would be made on the basis of "fairness": so many people from the West Coast; so many people from the East. "I certainly hope that isn't true," Carlton said. "I hope whoever is in charge has the sense to stand up and fight for the good programs and junk the bad ones wherver they are." Carlton expressed concern that the failure of the Administration to appoint a successor to NOAA Administrator Dick Frank left the organization leaderless at a critical time. "Left to their own devices the bureaucrats will respond to the cutbacks in a bureaucratic way. They'll first skim the cream off all the programs regardless of merit."

FENWICK SETS PLANS FOR 1981 FLY FISHING SCHOOLS

Fenwick/Woodstream, a pioneer in activities directed at educating the fisherman, has announced plans and schedules for 1981 Fenwick Fly, Bass and new Saltwater Fishing Schools, according to David Myers, President and general manager.

The schools are scheduled to be conducted at convenient sites across the country as well as Mexico. The two, three and five-days sessions are open to men and women of all ages and fishing skills.

"The only need a person should have is a desire to learn and improve on present skills," Myers said. "The purpose of our schools is to give the beginner or the most ardent fisherman the knowledge and correct techniques.

"We've worked out fishing school locations in areas where there is a great diversification of recreational activities to please the entire family."

Fenwick's fly fishing schools are either two, three or five-day sessions. Some are designed for all levels of ability, while others are established for the advanced fly fisherman only. The curriculum, with an emphasis on personalized instruction, includes tackle, entomology and artificial flies, fly presentation, knots, stream lore, and features slides, films and demon-

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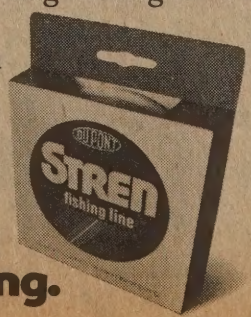

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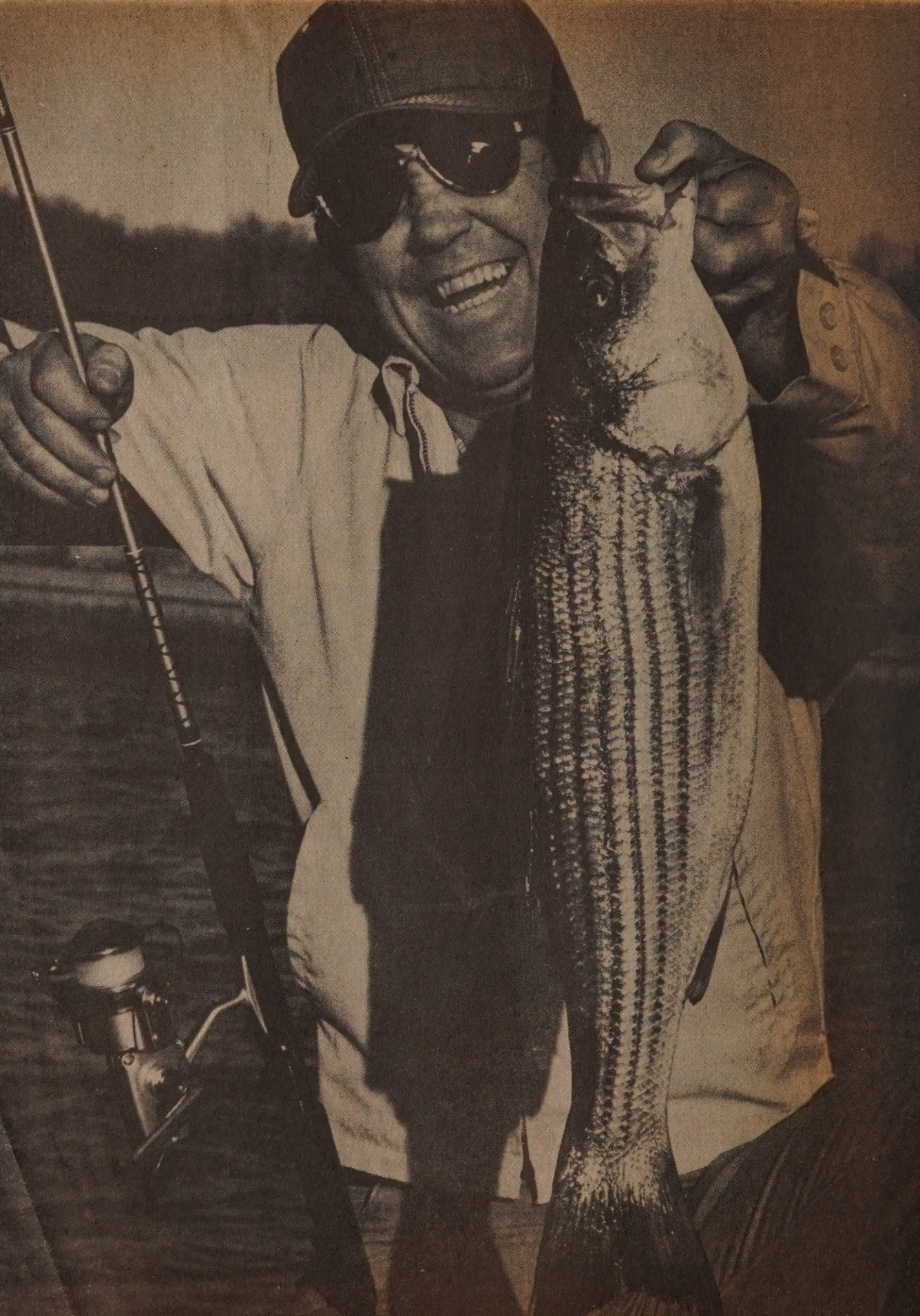

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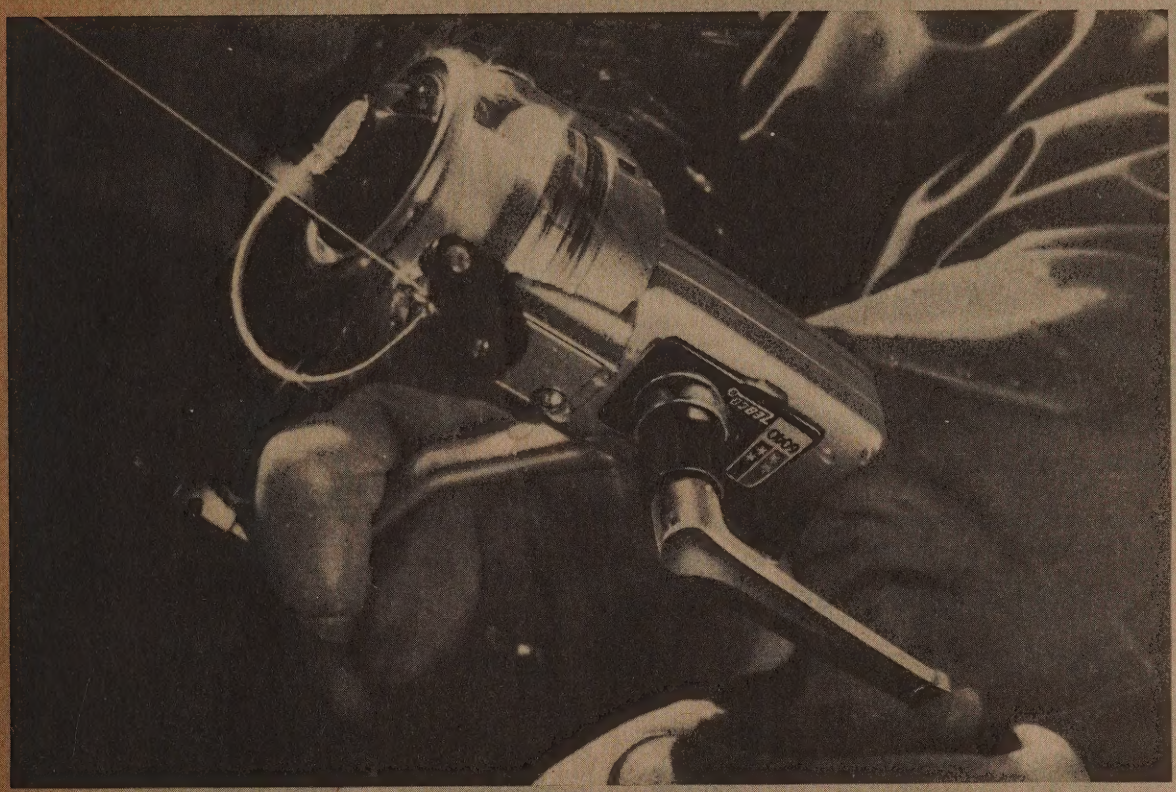

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With any of the new 6000 Series skirted spool spinning reels from Zebco, you don't have to think about the drag performance. You can count on it. So the battle's with the fish, not with your reel.

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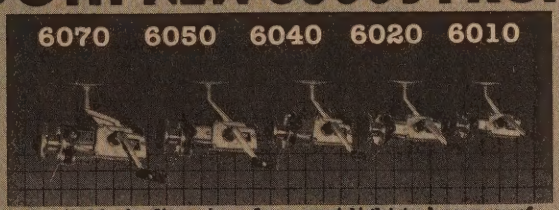

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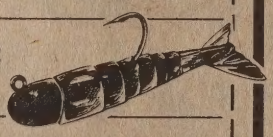

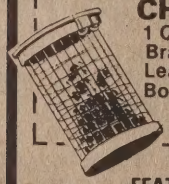

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strations. Other parts of the program include rods and reel construction, how to choose the right tackle, how to read a stream and much, much more.

The new Saltwater School will be headquartered in the famous Punta Colorada Lodge in Mexico, 65 miles southwest of LaPaz, Baja California. Renowned saltwater flyrod record-holders Dave and Freddie Cox and outdoor/writer fishing guide Bill Pegram will serve as co-directors.

Total trip time will be seven days (two travel) and feature five days of thrilling flyrodding in the Sea of Cortes. On and off water instruction in all phases of the sport will be provided. The school will run from April 30 to May 7 and include a limited enrollment of 12.

For information on East Coast Fishing Schools, contact: Mr. Jim Gilford, 7003 Glen Court, Frederick, Maryland 21701; 301-663-3966.

FRIENDS OF L.I. RECYCLE DRIVE

The monthly recycle drive of the Friends of Long Island will be held Saturday, April 18 from 12 Noon to 4PM at the Pathmark parking field on Merrick Road in Seaford—rain or shine. Look for the Ecology flag. Materials collected are: newspapers and magazines (tied or untied), aluminum and car batteries.

BOB WHITTIER TO WRITE BOATING COLUMN FOR THE LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN

Next week we welcome aboard a new contributor: Bob Whittier. If you think you've seen this name before, you're right, for Bob has been doing articles for a wide variety of boating, outdoor and mechanical magazines since 1944. Over the years, he has done over 2000 articles and seven books. Recently published by Aztex Corporation are his three latest books: "How to Buy a Boat," "Boat Maintenance" and "Seamanship for Sportsmen." Last year, the safety messages conveyed in his writings won him the coveted Capt. Fred E. Lawton Boating Safety Award given each year by the Raytheon Company,

Johnson dependable V-power and performance ...from the people who wrote the book.

Big boats. Big water. That's what Johnson® V-4 and V-6 outboard power is all about. So if you need 90 to 235 hp, look to the source... the people who brought V-block engineering to the world of outboarding 'way back in 1958.

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The 90-degree V gives our engineers several advantages. Like more room between cylinder banks to design more efficient intake and exhaust systems. More room for better cylinder cooling. And an engine that's inherently better balanced and smoother.

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Fuel economy starts with our Top-Charge™ carburetor system that supplies a constant fuel/air mixture regardless of the motor's trim position for quicker, cleaner starts and improved low speed running. Exhaust tuning keeps the fuel charge cleaner for more efficient combustion and greater power on less fuel. Fact is, over the years we have been constantly refining and improving our line-up of V-4 and V-6 motors. Today, for example, we can look back 20 years and know that our new V-4s are at least 50% more fuel efficient than those that revolutionized the industry. No wonder the world runs more Johnsons than any other outboard.

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...and National Sweepstakes at participating Johnson dealers between February 1 and April 30.

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makers of marine electronic equipment.

Bob is an all-around boatman and boat mechanic and in coming months will be giving our readers much practical information on using and maintaining boats to best advantage.

REWARD FOR TAGGED FLOUNDER

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Marine Resources, is conducting a study on winter flounder in Long Island Sound. Approximately 1,000 winter flounder will be tagged with plastic disc tags. The Department will offer a reward, three dollars, for the return of **both** discs from each recaptured fish.

Please return tags promptly to reduce the chances of lost information.

For additional information, please call (516) 751-7900, extension 326.

MAKO EXPRESS, ZEBCO AND MAXIMA AT MERRICK TACKLE

The Captain and crew of the Montauk charter boat "Mako Express," official field testers for Maxima line, will be on hand at Merrick Tackle Center, 2655 Merrick Road, Bellmore, N.Y., on Saturday, April 18th, from 11AM to 4PM to share their professional techniques on how to fish for and catch the big ones.

In addition, company representatives from Zebco and Maxima Line will be present to show and demonstrate their newest products, including Zebco's new "Gold Rush" reels.

Learn from the pros—bring your questions and let them tackle your problems.

INFORMATION NEEDED!!

Would **A. Panariello, Jr.**, please call Linda at The Fisherman, (516) 725-4200, Ext. 16. Need information from you.

New Products

DAIWA & RAND McNALLY OFFER GUIDE TO FISHING AMERICA

An authoritative new book on fishing in the U.S. is now available from Daiwa, the world's largest tackle manufacturer. The colorful, 110-page guide "Fishing America," provides detailed fishing and travel information on all fifty states, and is ideal for planning vacations and trips. Included are maps on where to catch fish, along with regulations and seasons for each state. Also featured are helpful tips on selecting rods and reels for best results.

For a copy of "Fishing America," send $2.95 to Daiwa, Dept. FG, 14011 South Normandie Ave., Gardena, CA 90249. You will also receive a free Daiwa rod and reel catalog and tackle selector. (Maryland residents add 5% sales tax, California residents, 6%.)

WD-40 PROTECTS FISHING REELS

A squeaky, sticky fishing reel can easily result in a lost catch and a frustrated angler. But a few sprays of WD-40 will prolong the life of freshwater and saltwater reels.

WD-40 is a water displacer, penetrant, lubricant, rust preventative and cleaner. It penetrates rust and corrosion and lubricates sticky reel mechanisms. The product provides an effective barrier to guard against future moisture damage, including saltwater corrosion.

The versatile product can also loosen sticky rod ferrules, reel seats and roller tips and roller guides, and protect guides and other metal surfaces from rust and corrosion.

Because it contains no silicone, WD-40 won't become gummy or attract dirt or dust.

The product is available at sporting goods and hardware stores in a handy two ounce size perfect for tackle box or creel, along with standard 9 oz. and 12 oz. cans, as well as one gallon sizes for use with spray applicators, and other bulk containers.

For more information, write the WD-40 Company, 1061 Cudahy Place, San Diego, CA 92110.

NEW "QUESTIONS & ANSWERS" BOOKLET FROM ZEBCO

A new booklet dealing with the "Questions Most Asked About Tackle...And the Answers" is available free from Zebco.

The multi-page booklet addresses such frequently asked questions as "how can I untwist line, what's the best knot for tying on lures, which is better—ball bearings or bushing, and how to install line on spinning and spin-cast reels?"

The new publication deals with more than two dozen of the questions most frequently asked of the Zebco Customer Service Department, Research and Development and Zebco representatives.

To get the free booklet, write Zebco Customer Service, P.O. Box 270, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101.

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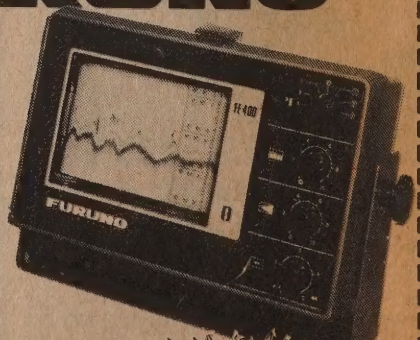

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Long Island Youth Fishing Clinic

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AT HECKSCHER STATE PARK
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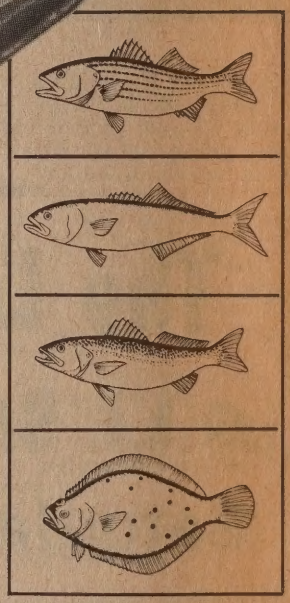

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NATIONAL SCENE

I.G.F.A. CONTEST

by Al Ristori

Once again this year the International Game Fish Assocation will be running its annual contest on an open basis. Not only will the contest be open to all anglers worldwide, but there is no restriction on the species entered. This represents an additional attempt by IGFA to bring new species into their record keeping system.

At the end of the contest IGFA will study all entries for "new species" to determine which ones should be considered for world records and what the heaviest acceptable line class for each new species will be. These decisions will be based on the availability of the species, geographical distribution, and popularity among anglers. The heaviest approved catch in each line and tippet class category will then be designated as the initial world record for the new species.

All freshwater and saltwater species are eligible for consideration, and the three heaviest entries of each species will be awarded certificates. All catches must be made in accordance with IGFA rules, and complete information supplied with an IGFA world record application form. Photographs and line or tippet samples are required. Contest applications and copies of the IGFA angling rules may be obtained from IGFA, 3000 East Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316.

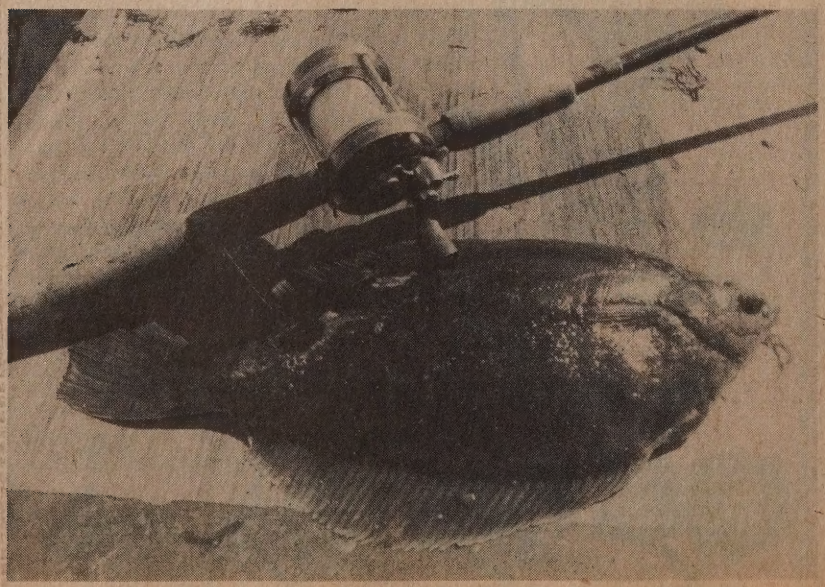
While all of the major game fish of our area have been recognized by IGFA (the false albacore, which is officially "little tunny," and the Atlantic bonito were among the last to be recognized), there are some important small game species that haven't made the list. Among bottom fish, sea bass, fluke, cod, blackfish, and pollack have long been listed—but what about such species as the porgy, winter flounder, and mackerel? According to the 1979 Marine Recreational Survey, the winter flounder ranks second in numbers caught by recreational fishermen in the Atlantic and Gulf. Within that same area, all species of porgies taken together would rank fifth. Mackerel are eleventh, but the figure for them seems too low—and they actually should be higher on the list. Sea bass rank sixth, with blackfish, cod and pollack far back.

There were substantial arguments against bringing small species into the record book prior to the takeover of freshwater records by IGFA. However, that no longer applies. Recognized freshwater fish include such tiny species as the rock bass, green sunfish, redbreast sunfish, red-ear sunfish, and warmouth. "Rough" species, such as the carp, five species of gar, and two species of redhorse are recognized. Under these circumstances, there doesn't seem to be any reason to exclude important species like the porgy, flounder and mackerel—nor even whiting, ling, white hake, haddock, etc.

Those of you who fish in Florida are aware of many fine species that have yet to be recognied. Among the many groupers taken in that area, only the giant jewfish is recognized. None of the snappers were listed until the relatively rare cubera was added at the beginning of this year. Identification is a problem with these two families, but that's not sufficient reason to deny them game fish status. Another great inshore game fish that's not listed is the acrobatic ladyfish—a species with every quality one could ask for in a game fish. Throughout the world there are many other worthy species, but they'll only be recognized if the anglers who enjoy fishing for them take the time to submit entries for outstanding catches.

There's no need to be shy about entering the IGFA contest. Most of the categories are won by very large specimens, while others get only a single entry. For instance, the bluefin tuna winner last year weighed all of 25¾ lbs.! That fish was probably entered for the 6 lb. class, but won because everyone catching 800, 900, and 1,000 pounders assumed that even bigger tuna were being entered. The pollack winner was also a relatively routine 29 lber. taken by Tom Cashman at Montauk, but that was also a fish submitted for a line class world record. Some very worthy local winners include John Baldino's 71 lb. striper from Norwalk, Connecticut; Margaret Fischer's 54¾ lb. cod from Montauk; Raymond George Fessler's 98 lb. black drum from Ocean City, New Jersey; Ian Cameron Lindsay's 15¾ lb. blackfish from East Norwalk; and William N. Herold's 17¼ lb. weakfish from Rye, New York. Famous game fisherman Steve Sloan won with a 114¾ lb. blue shark taken off Shinnecock—and that was a fly rod entry! New York resident Joseph Larkin not only won the IGFA contest, but also set a new all-tackle record spearfish when he hooked on a 90 lb. 13 oz. trophy off Madeira last June.

Three area anglers have world records credited to them in the latest IGFA update. A new women's 12 lb. class record was established with an 81 lber. boated by Catherine M.



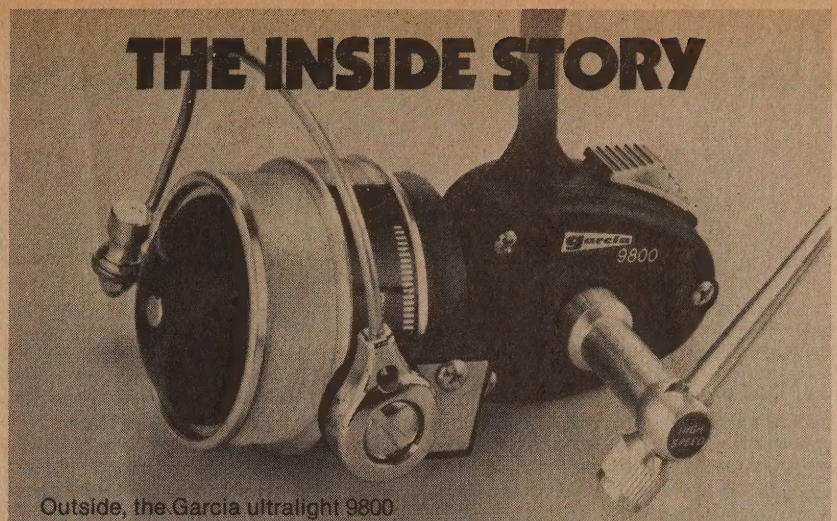
Flounder may soon be added to the IGFA record list.

Reider in Delaware Bay on Sept. 19. Nicholas T. Massaro set a new standard for weakfish on 30 lb. with a 15½ lb. catch at the Norwalk Islands on October 17. Finally, there is a 10½ lb. weakfish on 6 lb. tippet in the fly rod class by Gary L. Rudy at Cape May Court House. During 1980, a total of 119 line class world records were granted by IGFA. The greatest activity was in the men's 6 lb. line class for jack crevalle—a record that was broken five times during the year. In addition, the women's record fell twice. Five new striped bass records were set, plus four each for Atlantic bonito and mako shark. Saltwater fly fishermen set seventeen new records, including three blue shark catches by Steve Sloan.

In the freshwater area, the new IGFA "World Record Game Fishes" book will list more than 150 line class records and 20 fly fishing records, reflecting the results of the special world record fishing contest sponsored by IGFA in 1980 as well as records submitted for review by the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame and "Field & Stream" magazine. Among those records are a 20 lb. carp taken on four pound line by John Robert Kinasczuk at Shadow Lake, New Jersey; a 24½ lb. carp caught on twelve pound at Carthage, New York, and a 13¼ lb. walleye hooked at Hinckley Flats, New York on eight pound.

Only minor revisions were made in this year's IGFA rules. Under line class regulations, the question of backing for line on fishing reels has been clarified. As long as the back isn't attached, it can be of any size or material. If it is attached, it may not be more than 130 lb., and the catch will be classified under the heavier of the two lines. Fly fishing rules have been revised to outlaw flying gaffs, which were used to subdue many very "green" tarpon on the Florida flats. Gaffs up to eight feet are permitted, with exceptions for bridges and piers. The flying gaff prohibition applies only to fly fishing. Regulations relating to just what constitute a legal fly are also spelled out. IGFA has also stipulated that no world record will be granted in the instance where a substantial reward is offered for a fish that attains world record status in any class except the all-tackle category.

Membership in IGFA is a very worthwhile investment for any angler. For a $15 regular membership you'll get the bi-monthly "International Angler" newsletter, plus the big record book, and various other "goodies." Club memberships start at $25. By joining now you still may be in time to receive a special bonus: the 1980 "World Record Game Fishes" book, plus the new one when it's issued. These books feature many interesting articles and "how-to" pieces in addition to the record listings. Send your check to Membership Secretary, IGFA, 3000 East Las Olas Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316.



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FISH TALK

WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN

by William A. Muller

GOOD INTENTIONS. I've said it before; and just to be sure that everyone has read it, I'll repeat myself from time to time: we try to respond in one way or another to every letter we receive. Most are referred to in the column itself, although we do receive some mail that we feel is best answered with an individual response because the matter is personal or does not have a general appeal. Now, we may lose a letter from time to time, but we hope that is a rarity. However, we do have some old communications that we haven't responded to. These letters are from 1980 and we held them because they were in the running to win the Ugly Stik contest last year. Now we have a new contest and only this year's letters are eligible. Incidentally, it isn't too late to enter this year's "Win A Sigma Reel" contest. Just send what you believe will interest our readers (question, comment, anecdote) to me, care of The Long Island Fisherman. See the masthead for our address.

DICK BALDASSANO. Dick has been fishing for thirty-five years and he offered both some helpful information and a question. He says that he has been tracking certain species over the years. In making his observations, Dick has found that weakfish arrive off the south shore inlets quite early (his log shows gillnetters in the ocean taking fish as early as April 19). Indeed, Dick, we think that we understand the migratory patterns of larger weakfish pretty well, from the fifty fathom shelf-zone to our shallow bays in spring. Then Dick asks about the cod. He says his studies on cod have not been totally helpful.

PERHAPS WE CAN HELP! A study of the movement of codfish in our local waters would baffle anyone. There are parts of the seasonal activities that seem to make a lot of sense and seem quite predictable: such as cod on open bottom during the winter. But, how many? The key to the puzzle is that the cod we catch off the south shore are really spill-overs from the great mass of codfish that make the North Atlantic and the offshore ocean their home. Montauk, which extends further east and north, experiences more stable fishing and the larger boats in that port can follow the cod further as they move about through the seasons. Along the south shore, this isn't the case. Sure, there are some cod that make the ocean off the south shore their more or less permanent home. Therefore, even in summer some cod can be taken near the bigger and deeper wrecks. That's natural, since cod can find food of great variety around wrecks and the deeper water will not be too warm so as to prevent them from staying. The appearance of the cod inshore and their abundance depends on how large the North Atlantic codfish population is. If it is great, the range of the species pushes away from the center of population, more individuals venture into marginal habitats, and more cod are caught in more different places than in years when the population is smaller. In recent years, the population has been smaller and the Long Island fishing poor. It will take another decade, in my opinion, before the damage done by the Russian trawlers of the Sixties and Seventies is overcome. And indeed, we will only overcome it if management procedures do not become so lax as to allow either foreign vessels or our own domestic commercial fishermen to inhibit the recovery process.

GERALD KANISCHAK OF WEST ISLIP. Basically, Gerry was interested in the behavior of species of fish in relation to the changing seasons and storms. These are excellent considerations and, unfortunately, in some cases, we know far less than we'd like to know and far less than we need to know. What happens to sand eels, for example? Well, it is not believed that sand eels are distance swimmers. Instead, we believe that they will move some distance inshore and offshore in response to warmer and/or cooler water. Thus, these baitfish appear inshore during the spring. They will spawn and remain to feed on heavy concentrations of plankton. Then, in late June or early July, the fish begin to migrate into deeper water. They don't go offshore into the deep ocean; instead they will move into the middle of Long Island Sound, for example, or from the interior of a bay towards the inlet area and near the ocean where the water will be just a touch cooler. They prefer cool water. It is believed by many that when our winters are cooler that we have more sand eels. Most migration is triggered by temperatures, but in some cases there is evidence of other factors playing key roles. One such factor that has been implicated is the angle of the sun. The effects of storms on fish is yet another area that is not as well understood as we would like. Certain things are clear. One: large storms will move fish around. Two: large storms will put fish off their feed. Three: in conjunction with changing water temperatures, a large storm can trigger rapid migration. On graphite rod blanks, which was Gerry's last inquiry. One of the main advantages of graphite is the combination of light weight and strength. We have and will run articles about graphite rods and blanks. The technology of rod blanks is changing rapidly. Manufacturers are finding new combinations of materials that offer different features, thus permitting the angler to select the type of material that is best suited to his or her type of fishing. If you want to make a graphite rod for the surf, we suggest you visit your local tackle shop and consult with these experts about which tackle setup might be best for you.

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EDWARD SZTABNIK. Ed tells us that "...he's the type of person who is a letter writer, good or bad!" Ed had some thoughts about rods and their guides. He tells about a rod that broke and after repairing it (with the help of several LIF articles) that the position of the guides no longer allowed for a uniform bend. Stresses were unequally distributed along the shaft. Then Ed wondered about some commercially available rods that he thought might have too few guides. In answer to these inquiries, I think we have to understand and accept the reality of the saltwater and freshwater fishing marketplace. Some folks fish once a month, some once a week, and some everyday. The person who fishes a few times each year has no need for the tools of the pro. If that person were confronted with a $100 bill for a rod, he or she might not fish at all. Thus, manufacturers make rods for the novice and pro alike. To save costs, some less expensive rods may have fewer guides and the quality of those guides may not be up to the standards of the pro's rod. Typically, the newcomer to the sport graduates the quality of his or her equipment as he or she becomes more deeply immersed in the sport. Thus, to avoid the less carefully made product, look at the price and ask around. If you're a pro, then pay for a pro's equipment. Then, too, some people whose skills advance rapidly but who are not too affluent, find that they can make the pro's equipment with a little skill, some patience, a little help from publications like LIF, and a lot less money. Manufacturers recognize this fact and rather than discourage rod building at home, they encourage it because it is good business.

SPINNING DESIGN. Ed also wondered about the design of spinning rods and why the guides are on the bottom. The spinning rod and reel complement each other. The reel lets line off the spool, not by revolving, but by giving the line free access. Thus, the line comes off the spool in great loops. In order to lessen resistance and thus maximize the length of the cast, large guides are needed. If the large guides were held up on the rod, the weight balance would be lost. On large rods, the angler would be constantly battling to keep the guides on the "up" side since the rod would want to rotate towards the ground. In addition, if the guides were facing up, the loops of line would slap against the rod, might even tangle around it and there would be more resistance as line rubbed along the shaft instead of just the guides. Thus, guides facing down give us better balance, less line friction, longer casts, and better line control. Ed ends by saying; "..thanks for listening to my FISH TALK." You bet, and that's what this column is all about. Why, most of the letters we get contain important questions and information that neither I, nor anyone else on the staff, might ever think to write about.

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SINKER BOUNCING

USE THOSE TRASH FISH!

by Matt Ahern

One cool October morning last year Nick Hauck and I were blackfishing from Shinnecock Inlet's west jetty. I use the term "blackfishing" loosely, for if there were blackfish in the area we had yet to prove it. And this despite glowing reports received the day before. "They're killing the blackfish at the inlet, Matt." So, on the strength of that, I got in touch with Nick. And here we were—doing absolutely nothing.

"Looks as if someone's run a con job on us, Nick."

He shrugged. "Oh, well. It's not the first time. Let's pack it in. We gave it a good shot, anyway."

Just then the rod came alive in my hands. I set the hook and lifted a sea robin onto the rocks. I gingerly reached out and took hold of the rig.

"Well, well," I said to the fish. (I always talk to the fish I catch; which explains why nearby fishermen often look upon me with a jaundiced eye.) "A little late leaving the area, aren't you? Where were you last fluke season when I needed you?" With that, I carefully unhooked the fish and tossed it back.

Although that sea robin couldn't hear my admonishment, and probably would have cared less if it had, I meant every word. Next to a lively two inch killie, I've found there's no better bait for inshore fluke fishing.

Over the years it seems as if I've caught a zillion sea robins. And each and every one was discarded as worthless...until I discovered that sea robin bait was the piece de resistance when used for our inshore fluke population. This discovery goes back a long way and it has certainly put many fluke in my bucket.

Even during the long-gone days when there were more fluke around than there are now, using sea robin bait had its advantages. Instead of re-baiting after every fish, I could leave it on the hook and quickly get back down there again. It wasn't unusual to catch as many as six fluke on one piece of bait before it became too ragged for further use.

Now, especially at a time when live killes and most all kinds of bait cost the proverbial arm and leg, it is only the foolish inshore fluke fisherman who does not take advantage of what—particularly in springtime—seems to be an unending supply of sea robins. And what's nice about this bait is its ease of preparation.

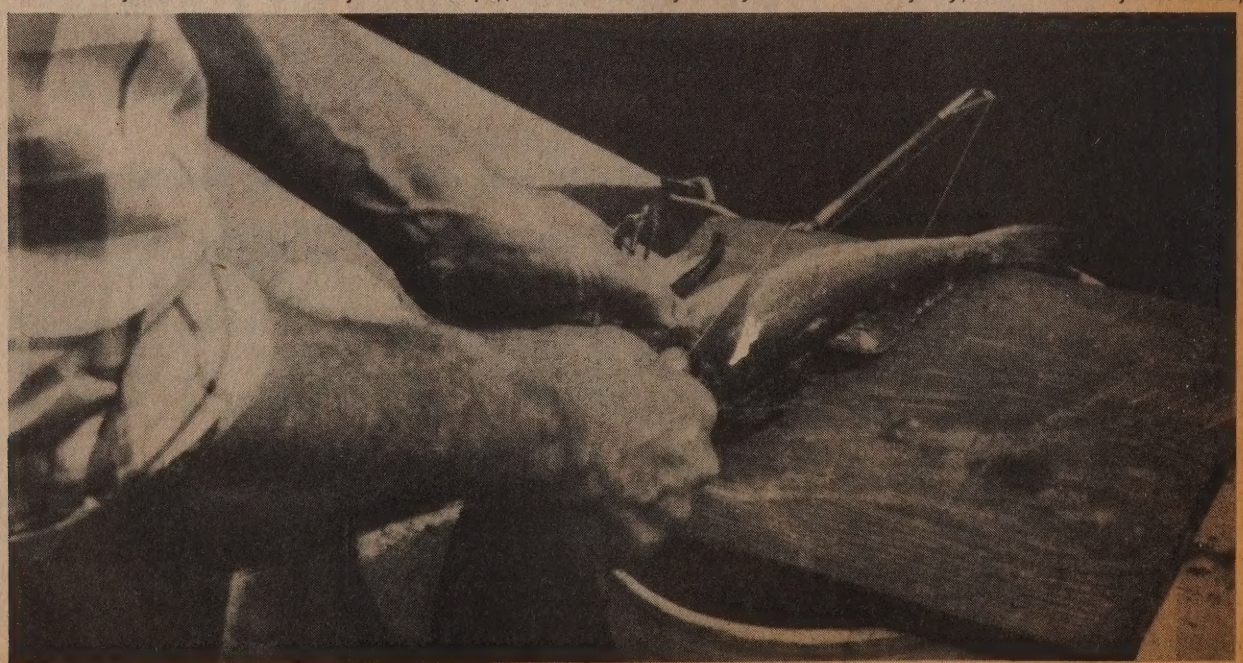
All that's needed are a pair of work gloves to protect hands from the robin's sharp spines (and they are sharp!), and an ordinary utility knife. If you haven't one of these on hand, any hardware store can supply. Forget your pocket knife. The blade is much too short and too light to do a satisfactory job.

It is important not to scale the sea robin. When scales are left on, not only does this make the strip difficult for short-biting fluke to remove, but adds to its suppleness—an important factor when using this bait.

To make these fish-catching strips, grasp the sea robin firmly by the head with your gloved hand and make a cut to the backbone slightly aft of the vent. When the blade touches the backbone, don't cut through. Instead, turn the knife almost flat and slice along the bone to the tail and remove the strip. Repeat on the other side. The complete operation takes but seconds once you get the hang of it.

Conservative fishermen, however, are not enthralled by this method, claiming it to be too wasteful. Instead they make their initial cut just behind the head. This method, they say, provides more bait. They have a point, of course, but I find when this is done, the bait has a chunky appearance instead of that natural streamlined shape that proves so irresistible to fluke.

Anyway, after I have my two slices,



When properly prepared, sea robin is tops as fluke bait.

I slice each in half—lengthways. This gives me two dark and two light pieces. The dark pieces I use over known sand bottom; the light ones over mud. But don't be too concerned about this, for certainly fluke prowling mud bottom do not refuse dark bait and vice versa; but when the fisherman knows his area, baiting as recommended does give him an edge.

Each piece is hooked once—and once only—at the widest part. And give it plenty of action. You want that bait to flutter and skip over the bottom. When weight is felt, it is best to give the fish time to munch. How long I can't say, as each fluke may, and often does, react differently from another in its approach to sea robin bait. But eventually you'll strike a happy medium.

But sea robin aren't the only "trash" fish which appeal to fluke.

Should you be wreck fishing the offshore ground at any time this summer and a smooth dogfish comes your way, don't you dare throw it back! (I'll tell you why in a minute.) Notice I specified "smooth" dogfish as opposed to those large horned doggies that invade the offshore grounds just before the winter arrival of cod in the New York Bight.

Now here's why you shouldn't throw those summertime doggies back. Several years ago in an article on trash fish, I wrote of an incident which brought out just how good these summer doggies are for fluke on our offshore grounds. I'll repeat it for those who missed it; and for those who didn't, a refresher won't hurt.

About ten years ago I was aboard a party boat that spent the last two hours of the day drifting for fluke along the outside edge of the Howard Wreck, which lies just off Jones Beach. My neighbor at the rail brought in a dogfish. Perhaps I had the advantage, because from previous experience I know that doggie's worth as bait. I watched to see what was going to happen to the fish and when it was obvious that it would be thrown back, I asked for it.

I quickly filleted both sides and cut these into four inch strips and went to work. Not only did I win the pool with a seven pound fluke, but of the twenty-one fluke caught that afternoon, I had decked fourteen—two-thirds of the total catch! And this with close to thirty passengers on board. Those passengers were in an uproar, but by the time another doggie came aboard it was much too late for them.

Those other seven fluke? All but one was caught by the fisherman who had given me the dogfish. We shared the bait, but he didn't share the faith I had until almost too late.

That's why I say: don't throw those summer doggies back when offshore fluke fishing.

I think one of the greatest "pests" inflicted upon us poor sinker bouncers is the bergall. Not that bergalls don't have their good points, for certainly many fishermen, especially youngsters, fish for them. But for dedicated bottom fishermen—blackfishermen in particular—the bergall is the thorn on the rose. No matter where we fish, it is a rare day when bergalls don't make their presence known. I sometimes think the only real friend they have are the bait dealers. And fishermen who put them to use.

I know I've caught a fair share of my fluke and an occasional cod with bergall bait; sometimes when all else had failed to produce. And it is hard to beat a succulent slice of bergall when ling fishing.

If I intend to use bergall for fluke, I fish it one of two ways: either in sliced form, as when using sea robin, or if alive and small enough—say three inches—by running the hook through the mouth and out the gill cover. The best areas to use bergall bait when fluke fishing are around obstructions: bridge pilings and the like.

The same methods apply to codfishing, although here the bait can be somewhat larger. Without going through my record books for verification, I'm quite certain that all but one of my bergall-caught cod were taken when wreck fishing.

So, what all this boils down to is this: as far as dedicated sinker bouncers are concerned, there is really no such thing as trash fish. All are grist to their mill if they will prepare them properly and put them to use.

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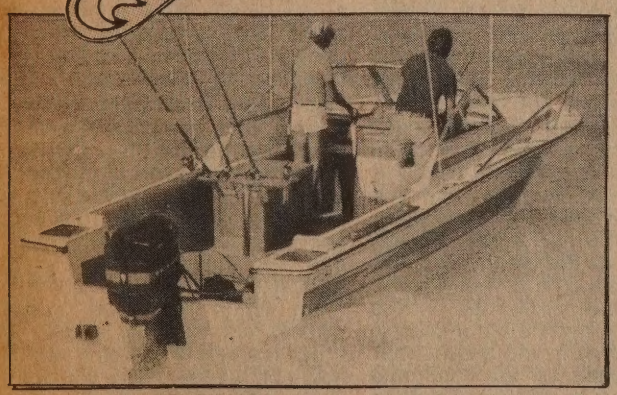

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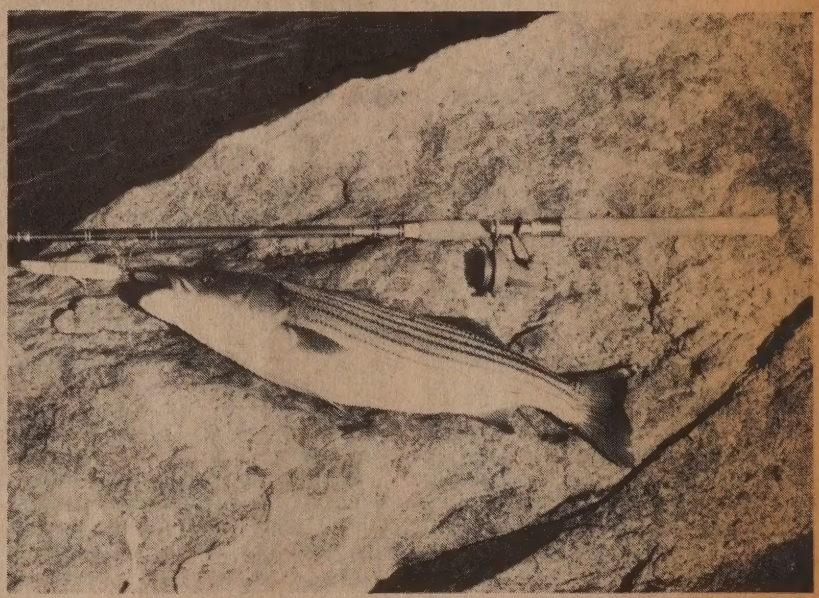
Working a North Shore Beach

by Gerald Hahn

I know three friendly boulders on a north shore beach in the mid-Island region. At low tide, a newcomer to this beach would find the largest one, seven feet high, rising awesomely above the waterline, like a beached whale with its flukes still wet. Offshore to the east and west, two smaller rocks resemble frolicking kids treading water. If smart, the newcomer would climb onto the large boulder and cast into the eddies formed around the offshore rocks, where he might hook a prowling blue, weak, or bass, or perhaps a large tautog or porgy—depending on the hour and the season. Should he arrive at high tide, however, the newcomer would have to wade to the large boulder; but by then, he may wonder why since he would see little else of significance. For at this time, the offshore rocks are invisible, except on the calmest day when a barely perceptible dimple forms over the closer rock on the left. Even when the water is moderately rippled, it cannot be seen at all. Had the newcomer examined this typical north shore configuration at low tide, he would know precisely where to cast at high tide. Which is why I consider these boulders as friends. Working a north shore beach, therefore, begins with observation at low tide.

The north shore beaches confronting Long Island Sound for almost a hundred miles, from the confluence with the East River in New York to Orient Point, are punctuated by visible formations with fishing potential—by points, inlets, harbors, but mostly by prominent boulders rising solemnly above the water, like monoliths of some prehistoric civilization. As noted, however, these boulders are deceptive. For every one that emerges from the water, there are a dozen submerged ones to be discovered. Not only boulders, but a rich bottom structure which must be explored, as well. This structure may consist of rooted beds of eelgrass in the west end, sponge-like seaweeds in the mid-sector, or long strands of floating, leathery kelp in the east end—a one hundred mile vegetable garden with diverse crops. In addition, the bottom of the Sound consists of a varied terrain of shifting sand, rolling gravel and sugar stones, anchored mussel beds, and the exoskeletal remains of shellfish. To be sure, this structure, so attractive to predator and prey, reveals itself most clearly at low tide. But even at high tide, it is possible to see some significant patterns. Our newcomer, for example, might also consider the high bluffs behind—typical of many north side beaches—that provide not only breathtaking views of the Sound, but the location of potential fishing spots. From this aerial view, he may see yellowish stains on the water, indicating inner and outer sandbars, mussel beds, and weeds, and the location of permanently submerged rocks he may never see from shore.



Casters who take the time to learn north shore beaches should have a fair shot at school bass in '81. Vlad Evanoff photo.

Some north shore beaches, however, are deceptively lacking in these landmarks. Come upon the beach at Rocky Point, for example, and you wonder how it ever got that name. For, excepting a few pretty, though useless stones on the beach, there are no offshore boulders in the vicinity. Likewise, private properties on the adjacent cliffs prohibit panoramic views. Furthermore, the beach itself runs as straight as an Interstate Highway—no cove or point, despite its name. At high tide, the unfamiliar angler cannot focus—everything looks the same. But at low tide, those "useless" stones denote a vast sandbar that extends from the group on the right to about a hundred yards west of the stone on the left. Local surfcasters, on the lookout for blues, weaks, or bass, wade onto the bar from the west side, where it curves toward shore. When they are aligned with the stone on the beach, they cast medium sized darters and poppers to the dropoff beyond. Aside from observing, then, talking to locals is another way of becoming familiar with a north shore beach.

Most north side beaches are easier to figure out than is Rocky Point. Many beaches have abrupt contours where fish are likely to reside. For example, at Lloyd Neck, Eaton's Neck, Crane Neck, Wading River, and Orient Point, there are projections of land, called points. During the incoming tide, sand is pushed along the point; on the outgoing tide, water drains from an adjacent river or creek, a shallow cove or a wide harbor, and exposes the projection of sand. Surfcasters gain thirty to fifty feet, from which they cast into deep pockets and swirling water, where predators lurk. Working a point a few hours before low slack, anglers begin along the back side of the projection and gradually move onto the point itself. In some places, they reverse the procedure around the peak of the incoming tide.

At other places along the north shore, for example, at Glen Cove, Sunken Meadow, Port Jefferson, Mount Sinai, Shoreham, and Mattituck, there are inlets with rock jetties

leading to harbors, bays, rivers, or creeks, where turbulent channels, offshore bars, and deep water come within reach of the surfcaster. Years ago, Shoreham's jetties (now off-limits), with their greater concentrations of blues and porgies, taught me the value of a few hundred feet gained from shore. In fact, along many north shore beaches, one finds a pile of rocks or wood pilings extending into the Sound, without an accompanying inlet. These jetties, aside from denoting property lines, are breakwalls against erosion and may range from half a dozen boulders at Hagerman's Landing, near Rocky Point to several hundred stones at Garvey Point in Glen Cove. Any disruption of the bottom attracts microorganisms and other baits, and, in turn, larger species.

To be sure, north side fishing will be interminably slow for the newcomer who fails to note these physical conditions. Moreover, he may not realize, for example, that fishing through an entire tide on the north shore is wasteful when, in fact, the best fishing generally lasts only two hours or so—around the change of either tide. Or that a tidal change occurring in low light or at night is even better for most kinds of fishing here. Between these end tide periods, surf fishing is better pursued elsewhere.

Effectively working a north shore beach also involves an understanding of the most appropriate tackle. Whereas an eight foot spinning rod with a matching reel and eight pound test are well suited for tossing light plugs along the protected back side of a harbor, a nine foot surf spinning outfit with twenty pound test is better for casting from the shore of an open beach, no matter whether the quarry is a twenty pound striper or a one pound scup. Heavy tackle is essential for overcoming snags on the rough bottom; long rods facilitate reaching beyond an offshore bar.

Various artificials are popular along different sectors of the north shore, although tin squids and diamond jigs predominate everywhere for blues, mackerel, and other predators that feed on sand eels. Small Rebels, Rapalas, and similar swimming and diving plugs are widely used in the back bays and harbors, river mouths and creeks, where distance casting is not essential. Bass and weaks are especially responsive to these lures in the west end, where one also finds white leadhead jigs with bucktails or soft plastic tails in wide use, probably because more surfcasters fish regularly for striped bass here than elsewhere on the north shore. On the other hand, in the mid-Island region, many of the open beaches demand larger plugs; for example, poppers and darters, for reaching large blues or weaks. Oddly enough, many east enders, like west enders, favor smaller swimming plugs, perhaps because the dropoff here is close by, or that they have the advantage of two shores in the east fork. To be sure, a variety of lures should always be handy, but it also makes sense to observe what other anglers are using in a specific place.

Then again, the north shore angler should not limit himself exclusively to lures, not when a well placed eel, a fish fry, a bunker chunk—indeed, even a strip of sea robin, properly rigged, may attract more cow bass or alligator blues than a lure. Ever since commercial fishermen realized high prices for mossbunker, north shore predators took to scrounging the bottom; that is, when they are not offshore chasing scattered schools of sand eels. Although it is beyond the scope of this article to deal with specific baits and rigs for predatory fish, nevertheless, it is worth noting that too many anglers fish for them exclusively on the bottom, particularly from beaches facing the Sound. I once saw a surfcaster take three large blues at Wildwood State Park, by tossing a light fish fry on a weightless rig into Long Island Sound on the outgoing tide. Instead of closing the bail after casting, he whipped the rod tip down at regular intervals, "giving line," as he called it. Outgoing water moved toward Connecticut before turning east, and while others with traditional bottom rigs looked on, he was able to reach deep water and present his bait in a natural manner. The choppers, spurning other offerings, applauded his. Sometimes, observing **how** other people fish is the best way to work a beach.

Many north side anglers concentrate on bottom fishing for bottom dwellers, instead of pursuing predators. The predominant species here are flounder and blackfish in the spring and fall, and porgies in the summer. Properly rigged sandworms or crabs on Chestertown, Virginia, or Beak hooks will take these fish, in season. If not as consistent as elsewhere, nonetheless, bottom fishing on the north shore redeems itself by the quality of the catch: eight pound bulldog blackfish, two pound humpback porgies and snowshoe flounder are not uncommon. Moreover, there are periods, albeit brief ones, when smaller relatives of these species—porgies, for instance—cover the Sound like a blanket.

Porgies and blackfish congregate around offshore boulders and mussel beds (as do predatory fish). Porgies and large flounder, however, range wider than blackfish, and many are taken off the sandy stretches between the clusters of rocks. Small flounder prefer the mud bottom of the back bays and harbors and river mouths. Should any of these fish fail to respond within twenty minutes, it is better to move on, just as when scouting for predators. For this reason, I bring along two rods and sand spikes.

On the north shore, April and May are good for fishing for flounder and blackfish all over the Sound. Mackerel

(Continued on page 50.)

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Jamaica Bay PROFILE

by Denis J. Useo

You hear a lot of people talk about the variety of fishing done in the New York area. They talk about the mackerel run at Ambrose Light, the blue bonanza at Norton's Point, the doormat fluke at the Tin Can Grounds, and the weakfish blitz at Romer Shoals. What you don't hear people talking about is the back bay fishing in the New York area; namely, that of the fishing done in Jamaica Bay. I must admit to you that I don't understand why. The Bay offers a variety of fish, as the other places previously mentioned, but offers these species in the quiet and serenity of sheltered waters.

I am still one of the deep-V boys at heart, making the hour or so run to Ambrose Tower every now and then, but I have also found a new style of fishing. One that is less tiring on the body and less demanding on the pocketbook. Don't misunderstand me: it is an exhilarating thrill landing a twenty pound blue with water reaching to the horizons and waves breaking at the gunwales, but there is also a thrill landing a five to ten pound blue some twenty-odd feet from shore, and in water so calm you would think you were still trailered. It is the latter style of fishing about which I wish to enlighten you.

If you're just getting started in boat fishing, starting here will not be a mistake. The fishing boat and motor required, demands only a minimal expenditure when compared to other rigs needed for other types of fishing. A fourteen to sixteen footer with a 9.9 or 15 h.p. motor is all that is needed. This is not the place for a deep-V, for you would spend most of your time sitting on a sand bar waiting for the next tide to come in.

The first time I tried this fishing, I borrowed my friend's 16' aluminum and trailer combo. His motor was in for a water pump, so I had to do some searching for another engine. I finally borrowed by father's twenty-year-old Sears 12 h.p. Elgin. It was garaged for three years, but was put away in working condition. I crossed my fingers and hoped for the best.

My first day proved more productive than I could have imagined. The boat didn't leak, the motor did start (although on the fourteenth pull), and above all, the fishing—as I was led to believe—was good.

Based on my knowledge of fishing, the knowledge of my father's fifteen years of fishing this area, and what I have gained last summer fishing here, one fast and true rule was learned. That is, you must fish the top of outgoing tide if you want to score. The time of the tide is of utmost importance. Fishing the low tide here is much like fishing in your kitchen sink—not nearly one foot of water and no fish. Please note that I do mean the time of tide, not the time of the current flow, which is the usual determination of when to fish elsewhere. Here we go by the height of the water. The reason for this is as follows. The area is comprised mostly of mud banks at low tide and at high tide, all you see are the tips of the weeds which grow on these banks. Grass shrimp, the main food staple here, hide among the blades of grass at high tide and in the shallows at the foot of the mud banks at low. At both of these times, they are safe from their predators. When the tide starts to recede, shrimp that have been hiding in the grass have two

alternatives. One, stay high and dry and die, or go with the tide and hope they won't be dinner before low tide reaches its minimum when they could hide in the shallows. This transition period, the time between the tides, is when we must be there to score.

Now that we know when to score, the next question is how do we score. Read on and you shall find out.

I usually bring my boat (I finally bought my own) to within twenty or so feet from the shore and anchor. Chumming proved to be no advantage based on the several times I have tried it. It seems that there are too many shrimp there to begin with. The shrimp are so numerous and spread out along the whole shore line that chumming was useless. Floating a clump of five to six shrimp on a hook also didn't pay off. With all the shrimp there I figured that this had to be the way to go. I questioned my father and he disagreed. "Use a small popper and cast along the shore after anchoring off the mouth of a creek." (See diagram, letter A.) On the second cast this little popper earned its cost. After about two hours of fishing and four more moves to the creek, I had nine blues up to seven pounds.

I have tried a variety of lures on different occasions, finding only one other type which regularly produced—that being a small Rebel in silver. Other types of lures or brands might work just as well, but I tried these first. They work and I'll stay with them until they don't. To cast these specific plugs and to get the most enjoyment out of the fish, heavy tackle is out of place. My tackle consists of a 6½' light spin-rod and a light saltwater reel loaded with eight pound Ande line. I like Ande because of the way it has performed for me in the past. My wife likes it because it is a nice pink.

The only drawback to fishing here at times is if you fish down-wind and close by one of the islands when the gnats are in full swing. These little critters that you can hardly see can be quite bothersome. At certain times, the place is overrun by them. At these times, the only thing that works, aside from going home, is insect repellent. I've found the best all-around repellent is Cutters Cream. It's not the cheapest, but you don't have to use a lot. A few drops will do the job.

Aside from the many blues I've caught here, there are also other species, although not in the same numbers. Stripers to fourteen pounds and weaks up to seven pounds have fallen prey to the two plugs previously mentioned, and also to worms.

The accompanying diagram describes the area that I am talking about. Please do not use this map for navigation; its only intention is for illustrating purposes. Chart #12351 is the chart of Jamaica Bay and the chart I made the diagram from. I would like to site an example as to why you should pick up a chart and study it before venturing out here. The water between Horse Channel and Big Fishkill Channel at low tide is no more than six inches to one foot, although Horse Channel is six to seven feet deep and Big Fishkill Channel is ten to twenty feet deep. Obviously, don't attempt running between these two channels at low tide; there are better machines to cut channels than your prop.

My bass of fourteen pounds was caught just to the east of Yellow Bar Hassock. (Letter B on the diagram.) This letter marks an elongated hole at the mouth of a creek. It is approximately 25 x 75 yards and at low water is eight to nine feet deep, while the surrounding water is two to three feet deep. High water adds approximately three to five feet to these depths. This is where the potential for the big ones lies, in these holes. The fish stalk at the edge waiting for the shrimp to be washed out and into this hole. These holes and more subtle depressions are clearly shown on the chart.

Trolling a deep running Rebel also produced some blues in Big Fishkill Channel. At night, you'll notice a few boats trolling this channel with their lights out. Although I really don't care for trolling, I think I'm going to devote more time to it at night. Maybe they are onto something that I don't know about.

Jamaica Bay is also blessed with a pretty decent flounder population. The time to catch these would be mid-March and into May. They may go further into the year, but by that time my mind is into the other species. The best place I have found for these flatties is where Island Channel intersects Runway Channel. This is about midway between Ruffle Bar and Barren Island (the old Floyd Bennett Airfield). Fishing the channel between the buoys WR6 to the north, and N2 to the south, would put you right on top of them. Fishing the east side of this channel always proved more productive than the west. Boat traffic has a lot to do with this.

The flounder here are not very particular about their diet. The standard sand worm, blood worm, and mussel baits will do just fine. Mussel chum will always add a few more fish, and sometimes is essential for making a decent catch.

Jamaica Bay is a real fisherman's paradise. It offers so much for so little effort and expense. I have, in the one year that I have fished there, just touched on the possible potential of this area. I like it here and will be fishing here more often. With the price of gas still escalating, the offshore trips will be few and far between.

This is a quiet place, a place to sit back and enjoy fishing and not have to worry about other boats and their wakes. Give it an honest try before you say that it is only for the lazy and not the real fisherman. You just may be pleasantly surprised.

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SPRING TROUT TACTICS

by Angelo Peluso

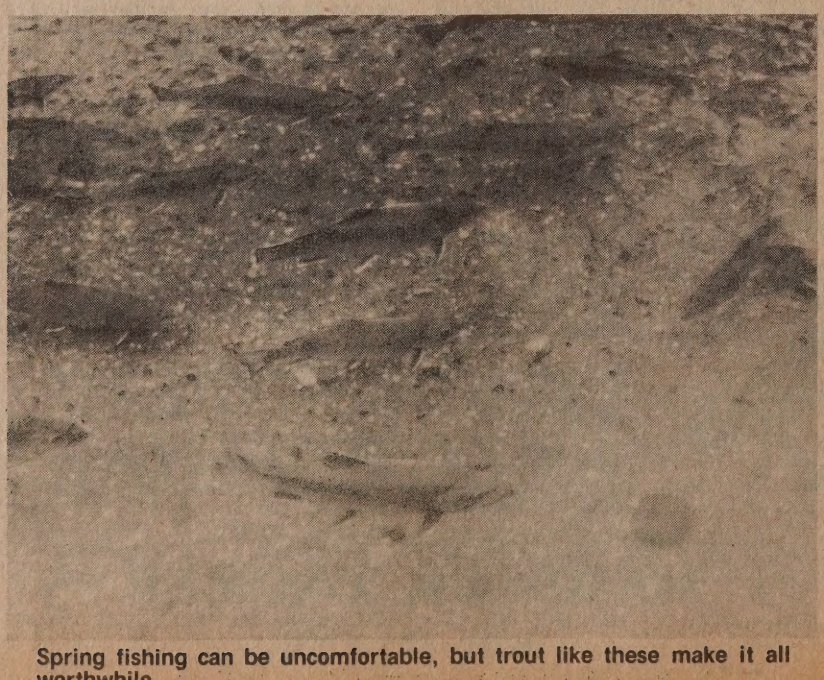
During my younger years I, along with the dedicated hordes, would make April sojourns to the enshrined trout streams of upstate New York. The Beaverkill, Wollowemoc, Esopus—familiar waters to all who have entered this wonderful world of feathers and fins.

But all too often, these early season trips proved uneventful and lacked willing fish. High, fast, and roiled water almost always made fly fishing difficult, if not downright impossible. The ticket to success was invariably either a lively "garden hackle" or an "ovum ab salmonidae" (earth worm and salmon egg, to the uninitiated).

Nonetheless, the Lords of the Fly decided that this early season purgatory would make one worthy of experiencing the soon-to-come hatches of May. But I could never wait. I enjoyed too much, the act of catching a trout on a fly and fly rod to waste the month of April and limiting myself to worm drowning and egg floating.

So finally, I decided to forego these treks and fish closer to home during the early season. This meant pursuing trout right here on Long Island. In the final analysis this proved to be one of my best angling decisions. The streams and ponds of Long Island can provide productive and enjoyable hours of trout angling during the trying days of the early season. What is nice about our trout waters is their ability for consistency; they are quite capable of producing right through the entire season.

A popular stretch on the upper reaches of the Connetquot River.



Spring fishing can be uncomfortable, but trout like these make it all worthwhile.

Due to the conditions encountered during the early season, certain techniques are required to score. Though I chided at the beginning of this article, the lowly earthworm, it has proven itself a worthy and deadly early season bait. It is, therefore, a method to be reckoned with. On Long Island, some of the waters lend themselves more appropriately to the fly, others to the worm.

For many, fishing the worm is part of an angling way of life that must be endured before further appreciation of the sport can be achieved. However, not all trout anglers feel this way. Most tend to be generalists who simply enjoy the act of catching fish. As an ardent fly fisher, I take great pleasure in tempting a trout to strike a fly. But, when situations warrant, I can be persuaded to lean in the direction of the worm. It is a time-proven fact that the spring conditions of runoff and its high water effects can best be handled by worm fishing. Just as important is the fact that success ratios at this time of the year are much higher for bait fishermen than they are for those who

use artificials. With these two points in mind, I would like to illustrate those conditions and techniques which make spring worming the deadly method that it is.

Fishermen in this region of the country still have to contend with the effect of cold April weather and water. The usually low winter temperatures have significance since they cause trout to function at lower metabolic rates. As a result, the trout will be inclined, for the most part, to obtain those food sources requiring the least expenditure of energy.

Let us examine for a moment the situation that develops on a typical mountain stream (though we obviously have no mountains on Long Island, the effects on mountain streams are similar to those of early spring rains on our waters). The spring runoff causes the water within the stream to overflow its banks. This overflow, in turn, washes many streamside organisms into the stream itself; one such organism happens to be the earthworm. Bear in mind that this presentation of the worm to the trout occurs as a totally natural act. Trout, therefore, become conditioned to the sight of this food source and readily consume it. So, I ask, what more logical fishing approach could equal that of presenting a worm to a trout already sensitized toward this food source.

Well, drawing from experience and practical fishing facts, I can honestly say that this form of bait, used during the first few weeks of the trout season, is nothing short of sensational. This has even greater importance when we consider that the first of the true fly hatches do not begin until the latter part of April, early part of May. Though considerable catches are made with streamers and wet flies, it is difficult to raise a trout to a dry, especially when there are no significant hatches.

For the angler wanting to make the most of early season fishing trips, knowledge of worm fishing techniques can be a valuable weapon in one's arsenal. These methods work when others might fail. Don't, however, make the mistake of being lulled into a false sense of security by thinking that the use of worms will automatically guarantee success. Live bait isn't the key to instant fame and fortune. A certain degree of skill must first be developed before one scores consistently. Just as a sloppy presentation of a dry fly will spook trout, so will the same type of presentation with a worm.

I consider the "natural offering" concept to be the single most important element of early season trout fishing. In terms of stream fishing, this means that the worm should be allowed to proceed through a natural drift with no line drag. When fishing upstream, follow the worm with the tip of the rod. Also, reel in line as the bait approaches your position. If this is not done, the excess floating line will cause the worm to drift faster than the stream's movement. Again, this will detract from the natural float of the worm. The bait should be allowed, at all times, to drift freely, unhindered by its attachment to the line.

In situations where I fish worms downstream, I will steadily release line from the reel causing the worm to be carried by the stream's natural water flow. As the drift terminates, I will either bring the rod tip up and back (causing the worm to move upstream), or I will retrieve the line by reeling. Upon completion of either of these two movements, I will allow the worm to drift back down again. This approach enables me to guide the worm through various fish-holding locations.

Should you feel a tap during the course of the worm's downstream swing, or should you notice a sudden halt to the drift, be prepared to gently strike. It might well be a trout. More often than not, the worm that is worked close to the bottom will become entangled in some sort of obstruction, transmitting the sensation of a striking fish. Only time and experience will enable the angler to distinguish between the hang-up and the actual strike.

Taking the concept of the natural presentation a step further brings us to the subject of weight. It is my preference to use as little weight as possible. If conditions allow, I will fish only weight of the hook and worm. A worm fished in this manner will sink naturally, affected only by its own bulk. The absence of weight on the line also reduces the risk of having the trout spit out the worm once the added resistance is felt.

Bearing in mind that we would like to keep the bait as close to the bottom as possible, it might be necessary, depending upon stream conditions and currents, to add varying amounts of split shot. Our primary objective is to keep the worm both near the bottom and drifting naturally with the current. Remember, use only that amount of weight needed to satisfy these two conditions. You don't want an overweighted leader that will cause a worm to settle motionless on the bottom.

For those fishermen whose early season trout preferences take them to lakes and ponds, the same basic approach holds true. If and when trout are located, a free-floating worm, allowed to sink and then worked off of the bottom works quite well. If your patience doesn't allow you to wait out the drop over deep water, add appropriate amounts of split shot. Early season trout will often be concentrated in the shallow coves that have been warmed by the sun. In these areas looking for food, the trout will readily take a properly presented worm.

When rigging the worm you can utilize two methods. If the worm is to be fished as a free-floater, tie on a size #8 or #10 hook directly to the line.

(Continued on next page.)

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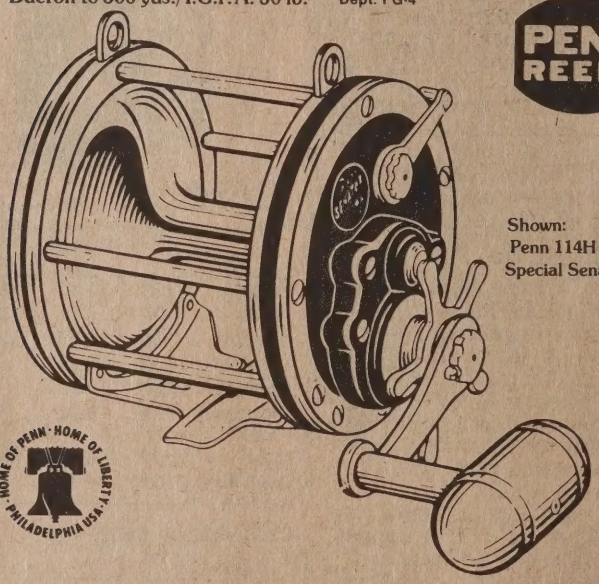

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Should conditions require that additional weight be added, prepare an 18" leader of two to four pound test. Place the split shot eight to ten inches above the hook, after it is attached to the leader. When hooking the worm, do so through the collar of the worm. Hooked in this fashion, the bait has a tendency to live longer and remain livelier.

Now, on to the part of this article that I enjoy the most: the discussion of early season fly fishing. Without a doubt, you can catch April trout on Long Island with the fly; most of the action comes with streamers, wets and nymphs. I'll make an assumption here that most of the readership will be new to this form of fishing. So, we'll begin with a brief discussion of the tackle.

One of the major obstacles confronting the newcomer to fly fishing has traditionally been the choice of tackle. Much of the frustration with the sport can begin here. An angler who chooses an improperly balanced outfit steps up to the plate with an 0 and 2 count. If the tools of the trade are unsatisfactory for completion of the task at hand, the end product will surely end up as sub-standard. This logic carries right through for fly fishing. A poor selection of tackle will result in poor casting, poor fly presentation, spooked fish and even a totally frustrated fisherman.

There was a time when it was necessary for the fly angler to take into consideration a number of factors before making the purchase of a fly outfit. One of the most confusing was that of choosing a line compatible to the action of the rod. The former alphabetical designations (HCH, D, etc.) represented an antiquated system that led to many improperly balanced outfits. Today, though, the situation is a bit different. The AFTMA (American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association) took the bull by the horns and redesigned the coding system. What they developed just about ensures that even the most uninformed anglers will be able to select matched equipment that will perform as efficiently as one's ability allows.

The system is simply one which utilizes line weight matched to a rod and reel combination. For example, rod manufacturers will rate their various fly rods for a specific weight fly line (4, 5, 8, 9, etc.). This rating is usually inscribed on the rod blank itself so that the purchaser need only examine the rod to determine the most appropriate line match. Bear in mind that a correct match-up will increase the casting efficiency of the rod and develop its power potential to the fullest.

The novice, prior to making the initial purchase of an outfit, should first attempt to define the primary purpose for which the outfit will be used. For Long Island trout fishing, four, five and six weight combinations will suffice for most of the conditions that will be encountered. With the current availability of a wide selection of quality graphite rods, the five and six weights in 7½' or 8' lengths will prove to be quite versatile.

The area of greatest confusion within the realm of the flyfisher is that of fly selection. To successfully and consistently catch flyrod trout on Long Island one does not have to be a college trained entomologist. Though the variety of aquatic insects found on Long Island can be quite comprehensive, it is not really necessary for the average angler to undertake an extensive study of the life cycle of the May fly. Should one want, for self-edification purposes, a study of this nature can only enhance the quality of the angling experience. For all practical purposes, the most productive of the early season fly patterns fall within the streamer category. Long Island fly fishermen have a preference for the following time-tested patterns: Muddler Minnow, Marabou Muddler, Mickey Finn, Llama, Marabou Streamers, White Bucktail, Black-Nose Dace. My own personal favorites are the Brook, Brown and Rainbow Trout imitations tied with marabou; some interesting results can also be obtained with synthetic "Fishair."

Right behind the streamers in fish-catchability come both nymphs and wet flies, with the nymphs taking a slight edge; caddis larvae and stone flies top my personal list. During the early part of the season, it is not really the rule to encounter many dry fly situations, even on the more temperate Long Island waters. But should you find yourself in a situation where topwater activity is occurring, the old standbys, the Adams and the Quill Gordon should do just fine. Size 12 and 14 are the usual standard. As late April approaches, the Long Island fly fisherman might make the acquaintance of a small, rather dark fly. Chances are that this little critter is the Blastarus, an aquatic bug common to coastal locations. The Quill Gordon is a good match for this fly and will prove productive.

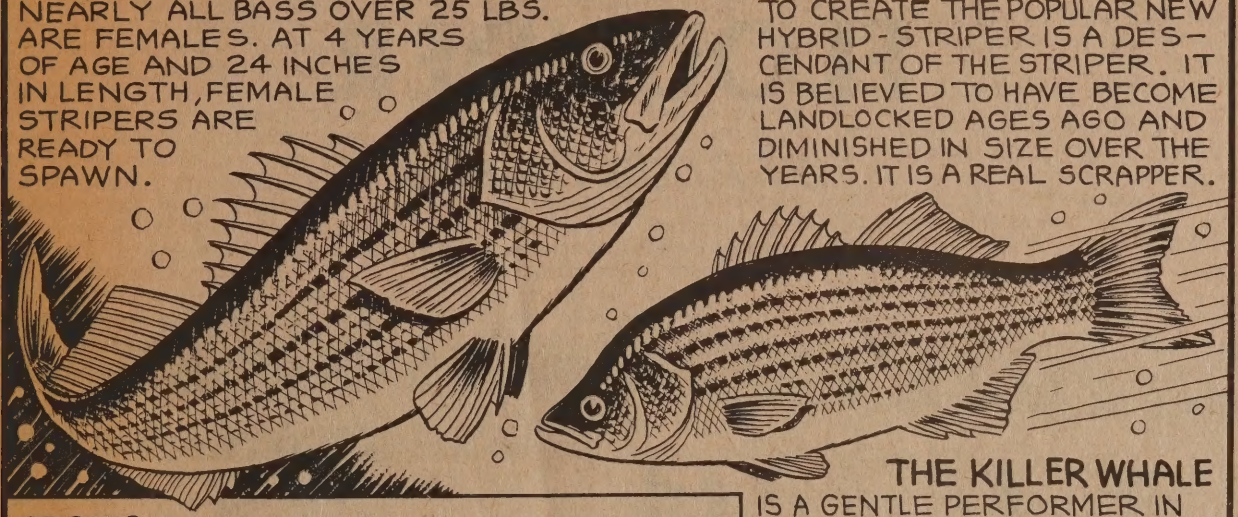
Armed with the basics we have just discussed, your odds of scoring with early season trout should be greatly improved. And remember too, that those "famous" upstate streams have nothing over our Long Island waters during April and May.

FRED'S FISH FACTS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE STRIPED BASS IS A LONG LIVING FISH REACHING 20 YEARS OR MORE AND NEARLY ALL BASS OVER 25 LBS. ARE FEMALES. AT 4 YEARS OF AGE AND 24 INCHES IN LENGTH, FEMALE STRIPERS ARE READY TO SPAWN.

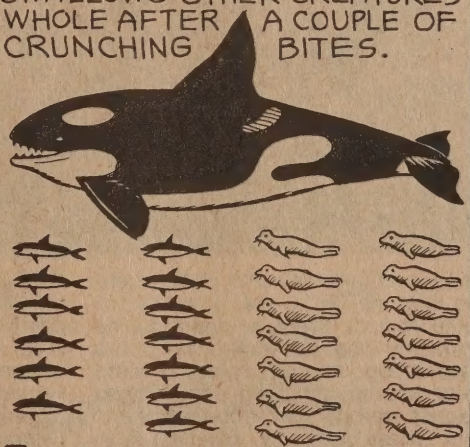
THE WHITE BASS WHICH WAS CROSSED WITH A STRIPED BASS TO CREATE THE POPULAR NEW HYBRID - STRIPER IS A DESCENDANT OF THE STRIPER. IT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BECOME LANDLOCKED AGES AGO AND DIMINISHED IN SIZE OVER THE YEARS. IT IS A REAL SCRAPPER.



CROWS, THE INTELLECTUALS OF THE BIRD WORLD WITH A 25-CALL VOCABULARY, ARE BRIGHT ENOUGH TO FIGURE OUT ICE FISHING TECHNIQUES AS WITNESSED BY A COUPLE OF ASTOUNDED ICE FISHERMEN...

WHILE THE FISHERMEN WATCHED FROM THEIR SHACK, A CROW VERY ADROITLY HAULED IN A TIP-UP'S LINE WITH HIS BEAK. INCH BY INCH HE GAINED LINE UNTIL HE PULLED UP A FISH!

THE KILLER WHALE IS A GENTLE PERFORMER IN MARINELAND SHOWS, BUT IN THE WILD IS ONE OF THE MOST FEARED MAMMALS OF THE SEA. IT NEVER CHEWS ITS CATCH, BUT SWALLOWS OTHER CREATURES WHOLE AFTER A COUPLE OF CRUNCHING BITES.



THE 6½ FT. X 4¾ FT. FORESTOMACH OF A 24-FOOT KILLER WHALE WAS FOUND TO CONTAIN 13 PORPOISES AND 14 SEALS.

CHANNEL CATFISH PREFER 70° F. WATER TEMPERATURE AND 80° F. FOR SPAWNING. THEY SELDOM LIVE MORE THAN SEVEN YEARS, EIGHT YEARS WOULD BE A RECORD. GROWTH RATES ARE VARIABLE. A SIX-YEAR-OLD FISH MAY BE FROM 10 TO 21 LBS.

THE LONGEST DISTANCE RECORDED FOR A TAGGED SHARK IS 3,145 MILES. IT WAS SET BY A BLUE SHARK...

...TAGGED OFF NEW YORK IN SEPT. 1978 AND RECAPTURED IN THE STRAITS OF GIBRALTAR OCT. 1979.

SHORE-UP FOR FLOUNDER

by Andy Regina

As long as there is some place where the land meets the sea, or a bay, or some Sound, there is going to be some guy who will walk down to the water's edge and go fishing. It could mean braving the high surf, braced against waves that pound against your chest-highs, or balancing on some slippery rock at the end of some jetty, once again fighting those pounding waves. Less hardy souls seek the less rugged shores of protected waters, and take great pleasure in fishing from placid beaches, or from some sod bank, or even from a pier or bridge. Whatever mystique leads some to indulge in one particular locale might turn others off, sending those people to seek different areas, but they all can be included as lovers of what may very well be the most popular method of fishing, and that is fishing from shore.

Fishing from shore allows the angler to fish at his or her convenience. You set your own schedule, and do not have to contend with any boat arrival or departure times; you can travel as far or as close as you wish, to do your fishing; and you can even bring the whole family along, at no additional cost. The hard-core surf nut is a loner anyway, seeking game fish day or night, and often traveling hundreds of miles to do so, either to cash in on the striper run up in Massachusetts or the bluefish blitz at Hatteras, not to mention local trips of a hundred miles or so to Montauk or Orient Point. For our intents and purposes, let us disregard this dedicated clan at the moment, as their tale requires a whole new story. We are basically thinking of the average, everyday Joe that likes to go fishing whenever he can, and fishes from shore when he does so.

Most of us are content to spend a pleasant day outdoors, away from the humdrum cares of our workaday lives, and any fish we might catch are just so much more added enjoyment. The way many casual fishermen approach fishing from shore is just that—casually. Usually selecting warm, sunny days, they arise at their convenience, eat a leisurely breakfast, browse through the newspaper, read in the fishing column about all the fish being caught, then pack the wife and kids into the car and drive to the water. They may stop to pack a picnic lunch and a cooler of cold drinks, dig a rod or two out of the closet, and pick up a dozen worms from the bait shop. At the shore, once baits have been cast into the water, rods are set in sand spikes or propped against a rock, whereupon the angler sits down to wait for the fish to bite.

This is great if you want to spend a day outdoors, and can keep the whole family happy, although it could drive the old man crazy. Keeping one eye on curious youngsters to keep them from possible harm, or chasing some bug away from a screaming wife is definitely not my idea of what fishing from shore should be. To a fisherman it means fishing, and fishing means applying yourself to the art of catching fish. Like any place else, fishing from shore is an art also, and can be fairly productive to the guy who applies himself to the task.

Right off the bat, it is never a casual thing. Preparations must be made ahead of time; tackle must be checked and made ready, the proper hooks and sinkers selected, if you choose to fish bait on the bottom, and tide tables must be consulted to determine the time to arrive at your selected spot at the most productive stage. It doesn't make sense to arrive at the last of the outgoing tide if you cannot

reach deep enough water because it is beyond casting range. To do so could mean a boring wait of several hours before the tide comes in enough to bring fishable water closer to shore.

Choosing your location carefully is also important. It is foolish to select some rocky area if your quarry is flounder, or a muddy bottom if you seek blackfish. Learn all you can about any fish you seek, to heighten your chances of catching same; different fish prefer different bottom structure and dine on different baits. Your knowledge of their life styles and habitats will enable you to determine the proper areas to fish, and knowing the correct bait to use and how to present it properly should prove successful.

Perhaps the one fish sought and caught by most shore-based, bait fishermen is the ubiquitous flounder, probably due to its ready acceptance of many baits and its usual abundance. Seek this delicious little flatfish where the bottom is fairly clean and composed of mud or sand. Though big flatties may be caught over rocky areas at times, your chances of scoring are greater if you fish soft bottom. This area doesn't have to be too big to produce either, and at times small, clear patches nestled between rocks or mussel beds are your best bet. A trip to the shore at extremely low tides can show you potential hotspots that may be covered at high water; spring or moon tides are best for prospecting because at this time tides are at their lowest ebb and this can reveal more of the bottom to you.

You can put low tide excursions to further use also, if you scrounge or dig for bait while you are there. Any sea worms are good—either blood, sand, or tape worms—as are any shellfish such as hard or soft clams and mussels. If the area you select to dig is not off-limits because of any local ordinance or property rights, fine; if it requires a permit beforehand make certain to obtain one first, and if it's private property always seek the owner's permission before digging.

If you intend fishing the same area you can improve your chances of catching flounder there because all that digging will turn up bit and pieces of clams or worms that might bring hungry fish there. By actually crushing mussels and clams at that same spot you also may attract hungry flounder within range of your baited hooks. Known as salting, this method works much the same as chumming from boats does, by prodding hungry fish into feeding near your baits. Another trick you can use once you actually are fishing is to retrieve your line very slowly, which will drag your baits along the bottom. This not only results in stirring up the bottom slightly, but actually lays down a scent trail that could lead interested flatties to your hook.

Tackle choices for this type of shore fishing are numerous and depend upon the individual angler's preference or ease of use. It should be fairly light, because the distances cast are not great and the fish caught are small, to extract the greatest sport and pleasure. Although spinning tackle seems to predominate the scene, many anglers still use conventional gear, and quite a few use droplines.

Terminal tackle is usually two small hooks tied in tandem above a sinker just heavy enough to hold those hooks firmly on the bottom, where all the action is. Try attaching another hook about two feet above the sinker; when your line is in the water, this hook hangs down due to the angle formed by the line from the rod tip to the sinker, swaying just above the bottom and often teasing the bigger flounder into biting.

Keep your trips confined to local areas; not only will you save money needed for gas, but you will still be within productive water most of the time because flounder frequent a lot of local areas. Down around The Bronx, which is our bailiwick, you can catch flounder at the foot of Clason Point, past Shorehaven Beach Club; along the shores of Pelham Bay and Country Club; under the Throg's Neck Bridge or at Ferry Point Park, under the Whitestone Bridge. The shore line between City Island and Orchard Beach is good, as is the shore line of Hunter Island, just beyond Orchard Beach. Speaking of Orchard Beach, the two jetties located at the ends are also good spots at times, and the lagoon opposite the parking lot has always been a springtime hotspot, often harboring nice flounder long before other areas and holding them long after other areas fail to produce.

A short trip over the Whitestone Bridge will bring you to two more flounder fishing hotspots, the jetty west of Fort Totten and the shore line of Little Neck Bay, just beyond the Fort to the east. The westbound service road of the Cross Island Parkway will allow you access to either place, and parking close by is usually not a problem. While you are on the Long Island side of the bridge, you might want to take advantage of the park at Whitestone. Here you can also hope to catch flounder from the shore, while your wife and kids enjoy the facilities of the spacious grounds. You can then make the entire day mutually enjoyable by topping it off with a family picnic, as tables and grills are available there also.

By all means take advantage of beautiful weather and spend a pleasant day outdoors. It's great for relaxing, can make for happy family relations, and just could wind up opening your eyes to the good fishing for flounder that can be had while fishing from shore. If you apply some of the hints we have tried to pass along, you may even find them helpful; at least they might be helpful to some. To others it will never be anything other than floundering around.

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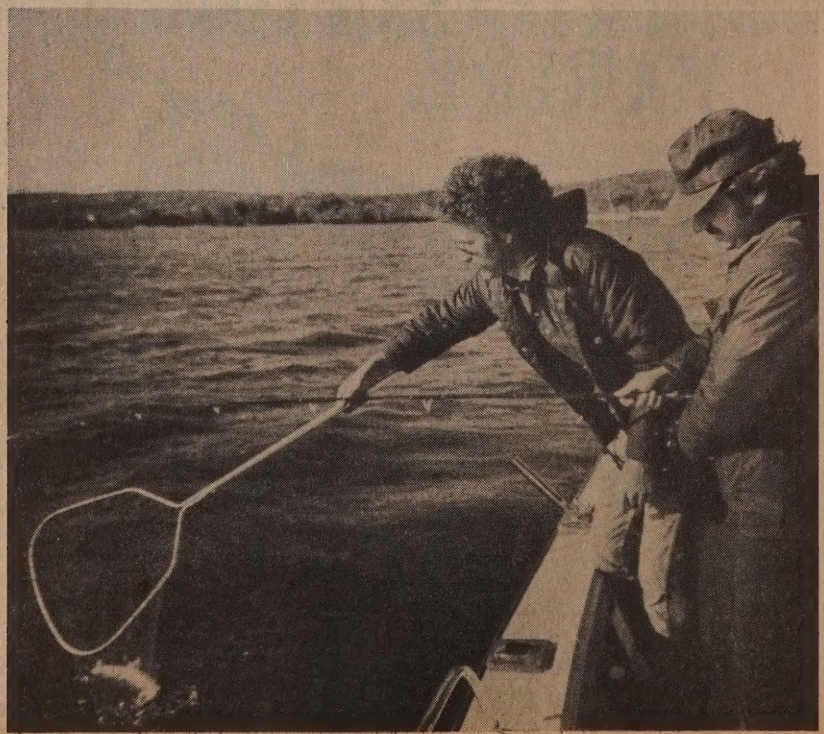
SPRINGTIME HUDSON STRIPERS

by Robert Rizzie

To most saltwater anglers, and some freshwater as well, the striped bass is a highly prized catch. Not without good reason, I might add. For one, it is a very elusive fish; it is also a good fighter, can grow to mammoth proportions and is also excellent table fare. One other fact that's probably overlooked by most anglers is the sheer beauty of the striper. At first glance it appears to be silver or greenish-silver, with horizontal black lines on its sides. However, upon closer examination under proper lighting conditions, you will notice other colors with different shades of blue, green and violet.

Most anglers probably wouldn't categorize the striper as an abundant species. Most of us upon setting out to fill the cooler usually seek fluke, flounder, or some other school fish that can usually be mohawked upon locating a school of feeding fish. As time marches on, old Mister Linesides seems to become even more scarce. In fact, I'm pretty sure that quite a few guys reading this article have put in much time and bucks in pursuit of this trophy in vain. Rejoice! To quote the words from an ad in a former Fisherman issue, "Come on out and get your share of weakfish." Of course, that was referring to Peconic Bay's run of spring weaks. I say, come up to the Hudson River and get your share of the stripers.

Usually, when one thinks of striper fishing, what generally comes to mind is surf fishing along our coastal areas or bunker dunking in the New York Bight area and deep trolling with bunker spoons, or other assorted hardware. But mention the Hudson River to someone, and they look at you kind of funny. Many fishermen, upon hearing the words Hudson River, usually think of it as it appears down at the Battery in Manhattan. Down there, the river seems to blend in just right with the glass and concrete environs of urban New York. However, take a look at the Hudson at Haverstraw Bay near Croton or near Westpoint and it's a different river altogether, a river that is so different that it is classified by many naturalists as one of the most majestic areas in the world.



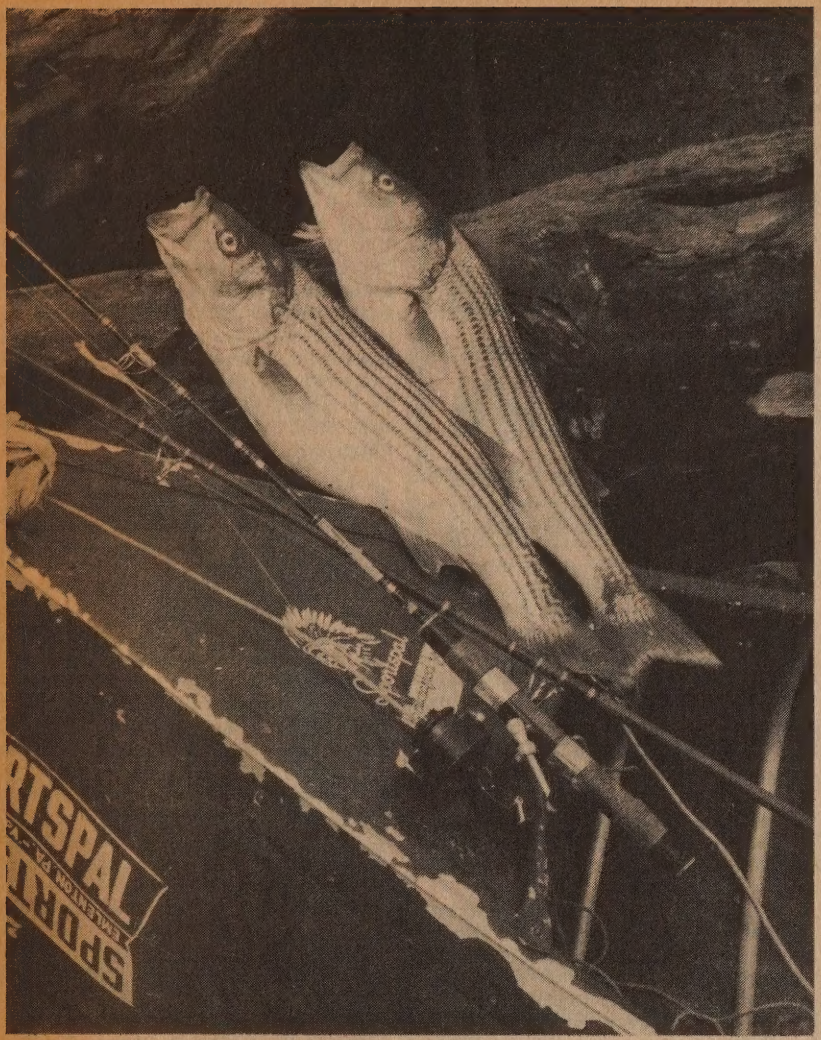
Ken Malvik nets a Hudson striper for Paul Gambra in Croton Bay.

Well, so much for background material. Let's discuss the fishing potential in the Hudson. Prime time bass fishing occurs from mid-April to mid-May—give or take a week or so at each end of this period. If you're planning to fish from a boat, tide is an important consideration. Most fishermen from this area consider the outgoing tide best; so keep this in mind when planning your trip. As to where to fish on the Hudson, this is a tough one, as we're dealing with a very large body of water. The area where I personally have done well for the past several years is off Croton, New York. This highly productive spot can be reached by taking the Tappan Zee Bridge to Route #9 and then getting off at the Croton Exit.

Having arrived in Croton, an excellent place to stop for bait, tackle, and fishing information (launch ramps, places to fish from shore, etc.) is Croton Bait & Tackle, 65 North Riverside, Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y. 10520; tel. (914) 271-3675. The launch ramp I use in Croton is a good concrete ramp. However, to get to the ramp, you must go under a very low bridge. I have never measured the clearance from the top of the motor to the bridge, but it is not a heck of a lot.

Just about any kind of tackle can be used. I prefer a freshwater spinning outfit with eight pound line. One word of caution: make absolutely sure your line, knots, terminal snaps, and reel drag are perfect, as you never know when Mr. Big will come along and pop your line as he has done to me a few times. The rig I use is simply a three-way swivel to which I attach my line, sinker and a good sharp #1/0 hook on about a twenty-four inch leader. The best baits are blood or sand worms. Hook the worm once through the head so that it swims through the water naturally. If they're small, use two.

I usually prefer to drift, but you may want to drop anchor if you hit a school of bass. The bass you catch in



A pair of bucktailed bass caught in a canoe at Croton River R.R. Bridge.

the Hudson will probably be mostly school fish from shorts (16" in New York) to about five or six pounds with an occasional big boy thrown in. The main reason I like fishing the Hudson is the peaceful relaxation enjoyed. You drift quietly along, requiring only about a half or three-quarter ounce sinker to keep you on bottom. There are no crowds to zoom in on you if you hit a school of bass.

Now, unfortunately, we must face the Hudson River monster, which scares off many potential anglers. Just as Scotland has its Loch Ness Monster, the Hudson also has one. To many folks the words pollution and Hudson River are synonymous. The sad fact must be faced that the Hudson is polluted by many shore-based companies and sewage. Polychlorinated biphenyl probably tops the list; PCB is a chemical used in the manufacture of some electrical components. In recent years, testing of Hudson fish show PCB levels in fish to be unsafe for human consumption.

In concluding this article, I personally consider the pollution of the Hudson—be it chemical, thermal or sewage—an outrage. When you consider that the Hudson is the major spawning, nursing and wintering grounds for the majority of stripers caught in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut area, this makes the Hudson's mistreatment even more criminal.

Well, that's about it. I've only covered a small area and type of fishing. There are other methods, such as trolling with plugs and spoons, casting bucktails, etc. I can only stress as I said earlier in this story, if you're one of the many who's been doing a lot of striper fishing instead of striper catching, the big "H" might be your cup of tea. In addition to stripers, there are also sunfish, catfish, white perch, eels, and possibly a giant sturgeon to be caught. If you want to learn more about the Hudson, an excellent book to read is "The Hudson River," by Peter H. Boyle. One last word of advice before making your trip: be sure to get a wind forecast, and if it's supposed to be blowing heavy from the opposite bank of the river you intend to fish—stay home. Good luck and good fishing.

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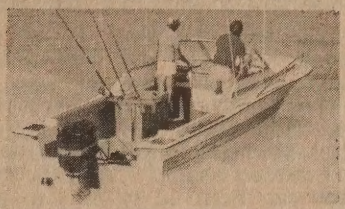

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Capt Paul Forsberg, Jr. of the **Viking Star** says cod and pollack fishing was very good all week on both bait and on diamond jigs with a tube tied in about 3½' above the jig. Catches dropped off on the weekend with the bad weather. Cod during the week ran from 12 to 40 lbs. and pollack from 20 to 30 lbs. Cod were also hitting the artificials. Catches ran from 70 to 80 fish a day with the smaller crowds with fish all nice size. Last weekend the **Viking Starship** sailing out of Key West to the Tortugas, enjoyed fantastic fishing for 77 passengers. One monster ran 253 lbs.

Capt Richie Rade of the **Marlin Fleet** tells us that the **Marlin IV** on Saturday and Sunday had a few cod over 40 lbs. A few pollack were taken. Catches averaged 10 to 12 fish a man on Sunday, all on bait. Some fish were also caught inshore. Richie expects catches to improve even more once the wind eases. Please note new sailing times in ad.

Capt Wayne King of the charterboat **King Wayne** called to say that he fished the Paradise Fishing Club on Saturday and they accounted for 40 cod up to 22 lbs. at the CIA grounds and at Cartwright. Sunday's trip for Mr. Muchi and group from PA were wiped out on cod due to the impossible fishing conditions but they bailed out with a decent catch of flounder that the skipper put them on to just off the Coast Guard Station.

Capt Ron of the charterboat **Julie III** fishing with Frank Braddick and three friends on the Hurry Up pulled 56 flounder from 1 to 1¼ lbs. in Montauk Harbor.

West Lake Fishing Lodge reports that Mike Magee on the boat Feeling Free got 13 cod up to 31 lbs. Saturday at Cartwright. **West Lake Fishing Lodge** will open on April 17th at 9 a.m. for meals. Now running the bar and restaurant is Ginny Quinn.

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

SHINNECOCK

The **Capt Clark II** reports that high winds held down catches during the week with the exception of Friday and Sunday when flounders from 1 to 1½ lbs. were caught in good numbers. On Sunday, Ed Trapp of Riverhead was high hook with 18 fish and took the pool with a 1½ lb. flattie. Capt Clark has been fishing South Jamesport, Robin's Island and South Race in Peconic Bay. Fish are being taken but we need a break in the weather to produce more numbers. Clam, mussel and sand worms are the bait involved and it is available on the boat.

Ritchie reported from **Altenkirch Bait and Tackle** that flounder fishing has been very good in the bay whenever the winds lay down. He named Heddy Creek and the area east of the Basket Grounds as two of the better producing spots. A few fish still remain in the Canal, but most fish are now out in the bay. Mussel chum is important and worms have been the most effective bait. Ritchie added that there's been no sign of weaks yet, but did report that Mickey, Hank and Miriam Altenkirch recently returned from a vacation in Panama, where they enjoyed a successful bout with sailfish, black marlin and snook.

HAMPTON BAYS

John Mangina who manages the goings-on at **Corr's Fishing Station** spoke of very good flounder fishing in Shinnecock Bay, off of Heady Creek and at the Greenlawns. On Friday, Louis Mazzela and a friend totalled 108 flounder, while Jay Latrance fishing alone, put away 98 flatties. On Saturday, members of the Lower Bay Anglers Club pooled their efforts to take 230 nice flounder. Sunday's best score was made by Ted Lesmiac who returned with 160 flounder, including 11 2 lbers. Fishing was being done with sand worms and chum is very important.

MORICHES BAY

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** reported that buoys 42, 44, 27 and 29 along with Seatuck Cove have been producing good scores of flounder. Bill said that the size of the fish is more impressive than the quantity. Most of the fish are in the 1 to 1¾ lb. range with an occasional 2 lber. Both mussel and clam chum is required for a good score and worms continue to take many of the fish. On Saturday, Ron Raynor checked in a catch of 70 big flatties made at buoy 42. Bill described it as the finest catch of flatties he has seen come out of Moriches Bay with none of the fish under a pound. On Sunday, Bill went out himself and in just a couple of hours time put away 25 flatties in the 1 lb. class. Biggest flattie of the weekend was a 2 lb. 3 oz. fish taken by Tim Mirando on Sunday.

Word from **Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station** was that the weekend was slow due to the wind. Top catch brought back to the station on Saturday was 30 fish. There was good fishing Sunday morning until the wind came up and chased most boats back to the station or looking for shelter. The buoy 27 area produced most of the fish taken and heavy chum

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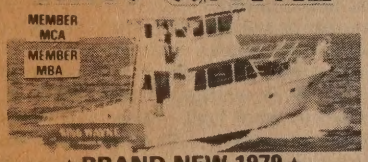
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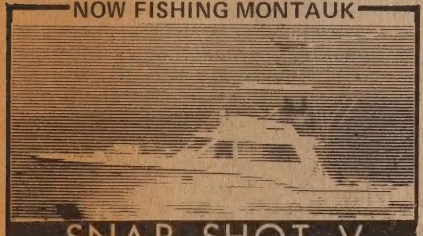
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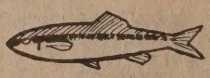

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with either blood or sand worms is the ticket.

From the **Silly Lily Fishing Station** Gary said that the fish appear to be moving into shallower water. He named Havens Point as the best bet for action. Worms and mussel chum are the right combination in the area and Gary noted that those anglers who stick it out in one spot and continue to chum have an edge over anglers who move frequently. Catches vary with low scores of a dozen per boat and some boats returning with as many as 70 flatties. On Saturday, Don Schiemann and a friend, both of Smithtown, returned by mid-morning with 70 nice flatties.

Betty reported from **Skidmore's Fishing Station** that catches over the weekend varied due to the wind. Some good scores were made at buoys 41 and 42, with most of the fish in the 1 to 1½ lb. range. Worms have the edge in the bait department, but clams also work and heavy chumming with mussels is a necessity. One boat over the weekend returned to the station by 9:30 a.m. with 54 flatties taken at buoy 42.

John at **Seatuck Cove Fishing Station in** Eastport described the flatfishing as very good despite a steady dose of wind. Average catch per boat on Saturday was in the 40 to 50 fish range, with fishing being done at buoy 42 until the winds came up when boats retreated to the shelter of Seatuck Cove. On Sunday, Armand Gallo, George Servat and Joe Derrien, all of Floral Park returned with 57 flounder from 1 to 1¾ lbs. The trio fished northeast of buoy 42 and used worm and mussel chum.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

MASTIC BEACH

From **Capt. Andy's Fishing Station,** Harry reported that fishing took a downturn this week due to all of the wind. Buoy 17 and the bridge did produce some fish, however, to boatmen using worms and clams and chumming with clams or mussels.

OAKDALE

Dave at **J&R Sports Center** reported that the fish of the week was not flat. Thirteen-year-old Kevin Bollinger checked in a 23" rainbow trout. Other details were lacking. Dave noted that Mill Pond in Sayville has begun producing rainbows in the 8 to 11 inch range for casters using small spinners. Of the flounder, action has been spread all over the bay, with

Heckscher, Point O'Woods and South Beach area all producing. Casters have been taking fish from the pocket inside of the Sore Thumb. Worms and clams have both been effective baits and chumming or stirring the bottom is very important.

EAST ISLIP

Irene reported from **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** that Bob Cifarelli worked the beach at Heckscher State Park one day last week and returned with a dozen beautiful flounder ranging from 1¼ to 1¾ lbs. Bob used worms to take these fish. Charlie and Bill Rex checked in a catch of 30 flatties up to 1½ lbs. Irene said that worms have been the most effective bait and mussel chum a big asset for the flatties. She also added that a few perch up to 1 lb. have been taken back in Champlain Creek by some of the local anglers. The Shop flounder contest begins April 20 and will run through May 4. Pre-registration is required and all entries must be weighed in at the shop. Ties will be settled by the angler who has the earliest registration date and time. Getting back to the flounder fishing, a few of the better spots have been West Channel, Buoy 2, Ocean Beach and the Heckscher park area.

BAY SHORE

Captain Neil Delanoy of the open boat **Casey Lee** reported pretty good flounder fishing all week, but slow fishing on Sunday. Fishing is being done off of Islip and along West Channel with worms and clams. Fish are the finest kind with most in the 1 to 1¼ lb. class, and the pool fish usually going around 2 lbs. Congratulations to first mate John Manzella, who can now be called Captain since passing his Coast Guard exam on Friday. The skipper is now licensed to run 100 ton vessels up to 50 miles offshore.

Linda reported from **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** that Al Allan and Alfred Arnold fished the Ocean Beach area to take 18 flatties up to 1½ lbs. using sand worms and mussel chum one day last week. Boyd Miller of C.I. christened his new boat the Trouble-maker with several flounder up to 1¼ lbs. over the weekend. Linda reported the best flatfishing from buoy 4 west to the Bay Shore flats and in the pocket at Oak Beach. Mussel chum helps tremendously for those looking to make a good score.

CAPTREE

Captain Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen II** described the flounder fishing as erratic. Plenty of fish around, but lots of wind has kept things inconsistent. Friday's fishing was super, according to the skipper while Saturday's wind resulted in poor scores. Sunday was described as fair with catches averaging 7 to 10 keepers a man. Fish are spread

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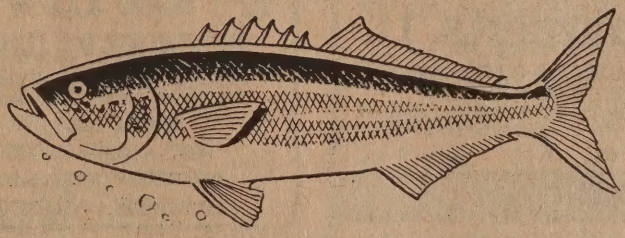

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around the bay, with West Channel, Heckscher, Clam Pond and Atlantique all producing fish. The skipper has been impressed with the size of the flatties. The average is between 3/4 to 1¼, with quite a few 1½ to 1¾ lbs. Fresh mussels and clams have been accounting for the best scores. Pete Garris of North Babylon had 24 fish on Friday's trip.

Noel Kaupauff reported this week's results of the flounder derby being sponsored by Natural Lite Beer. Speaking from his **Captree Bait Station** Noel told us that first place for the week went to Tom Doherty for a 2 lb. 5 oz. flattie. Tom received a Shakespeare Ugly Stik and Penn Jigmaster reel for his efforts. Joel Kiembella copped second place with a 2 lb. 4¾ oz. fish. A Daiwa Sealine 50H reel was awarded to Joel. All daily winners in the derby received Plano tackle boxes (#7620). As for the pier fishing at Captree, Noel put in a good word for the Overlook pier where good sized flatties have been producing decent action on either side of tidal changes. Catches of up to 20 fish per man have been checked in to the shop.

The charter boat **Seabird** fishing a group from Assembly of God Church in Shirley on Saturday picked away at big flounder despite the wind. Gene Alliello copped the pool with a 1 lb. 13 oz. flattie. Sunday was a tough day for the Bob Sullivan party due to the wind conditions.

Captain George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty** said that flounder fishing has been up and down due to lots of wind which has kept the Bay stirred up. This past week saw days with anglers taking as many as 40 fish and other days seeing guys catch zip. However intense the action, the size of the fish has been outstanding with most averaging 3/4 to 1¼ lbs. and some going up to 2 lbs. Fish are spread all over the bay from the State Channel east to Point O' Woods. Clams, worms and mussels have all been taking fish.

Captain Neil Delanoy of the charter boat **Lady Ann** reported fishing has been fair in the West Channel area and in the State Channel. Size of the fish has been excellent with lots of fish in the 1 to 1¼ lb. range being taken on worms and clams.

The **Jib VI** skippered by Captain Joe Prozzi reported that flounder fishing was good on Friday, although fishing on the weekend was tough. Captain Joe has been concentrating his efforts in West Channel and along South Beach. On Saturday, 10-year-old Joey Martins copped the daily prize in the Natural Lite flounder derby with a flattie of 1 lb. 14 oz. A beautiful Plano tackle box was awarded to Joey for his efforts.

Charter Boat **Rendova Island** fished a group from the NYC Department of

Parks on Friday. Fishing was good for the group, but none could have been happier than Tom Dougherty who copped the weekly flounder derby with a 2 lb. 5 oz. flattie. On Saturday a group headed by Ernie Dewling managed a steady pick of fish up to 1¾ lbs. Captain John Gutman, who skippered the boat did his fishing in West Channel and at Clam Pond.

Captain Ron Peters of the **Yankee III** went off on a wreck trip for cod Saturday with very good results. Thirty-seven anglers from the Tamaqua Fishing Club returned with over 50 cod. While many were 5 to 7 lbs., 20 were over 20 lbs. and the largest was a 47½ lber. taken by Miles Kehoe of Brooklyn. A few blackfish were mixed with the cod.

BABYLON

Bill at **Babylon Fishing Station** reported catches of up to 40 fish per boat on Friday and Saturday, with Sunday being another story due to the wind. Babylon Cut has been the best producer with fish also taken at Fox Creek and on the flats off of Good Sam. Worms and mussels as bait and mussel chum has been the ticket. In addition, Bill noted that the best scores this past week were being made in shallower water as the fish appear to be moving out of the holes and channels. Biggest flattie weighed in on the weekend was 1 lb. 15 oz.

From **Augie's Bait and Tackle Shop** Ralph said that Doc Bohner aboard his Reel D had 31 flounder up to 1 lb. 15 oz. fishing at buoy 10 one day last week. The State Channel has been producing some decent scores for boatmen using worms and mussels. Now for a change of pace from a continuing deluge of flounder reports. Ralph reported that on Sunday, Babylon Tuna Club member Dick Svoboda, aboard his Miss Marion, ran off to the Virginia Wreck in search of cod. En route home after doing nothing with the cod, Dick and his crew ran across big schools of bluefish 25 miles off the beach. Despite having fish all over the surface around them, the crew could find no takers for the assortment of lures and jigs thrown at the fish. Dick noted that the fish appeared to be very spooky and would sound and then resurface each time they got into the fish.

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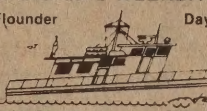

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FLOUNDER

LINDENHURST

The newly opened **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** reported a catch of 15 flounder up to 2 lbs. for Al Boccal, who ran east to Range Channel where he fished in six feet of water using worms and mussel chum. Bob Rose went no further than the town beach to put away a catch of 30 flatties up to 2 lbs. Bob did his work from shore and used night crawlers for bait.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle reported that West Island and Squaw Island have been the best bet for flounder fans. George noted that the flatties have begun moving into shallower water and that fishing the edges of channels has been highly productive. Fish have been good sized, with a good number in the 1 to 1½ lb. class and a couple around the 2 lb. mark weighed in. Heavy chumming is a big asset and best baits have been worms and mussels. No word on weaks or mackerel.

SEAFORD

From **Pop's Fishing Station** John reported excellent flounder fishing on Saturday with five boats returning with catches of over 100 flatties. Hank Mellynchuck, Scott Adams and Paul and Bob Weise took 105 fish to 2 lbs., Joe Doria, Fred Pienkos and Jerry Messina had 107 flounder to 2

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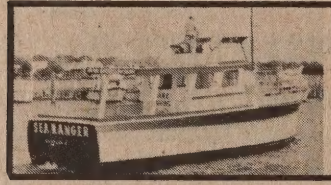
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lbs. and Mr. and Mrs. Longerello also had over 100 flatties, as well as one which found its way into the boat via the anchor. The unfortunate fish had a piece of trailing line wrap around the couple's anchor flukes and when it was retrieved at the end of the day's fishing, one more flattie was added to the catch. Best results were found on the east side of Massapequa Cove, but Squaw and West Island also produced fish. John said that 3/4 lbs. has been about the average, with worms and mussels both effective baits and chumming with mussels or corn very important.

From **Captain Eddy's Fishing Station** there was also word of very good flounder action in Massapequa Cove. On Saturday, Mike and Cindy Somers had 55 ranging from 1 to 1¾ lbs. Also Saturday, Jim Barbera and Tim and Rick Farrell combined for 80 flatties up to a hefty 2 lbs. Most boats returned with catches ranging from 40 to 80 fish. Mussels and worms both effective baits and chumming is very important. Wind hurt Sunday's efforts for most boatmen.

Lon Wanser reported from **Wanser's Tackle Shop** that catches of up to 100 flounder per boat, with quite a few in the 1 lb. range have not been unusual in Massapequa Cove. Chum is a must for a big score and both worms and mussels have been good baits. Lon also named the 1st bridge, Squaw Island and Unqua Point as producing decent catches. He knew that a couple of private boats scored with cod this past week on open bottom south of Jones Inlet.

The open boat **Chinco** reported the weekend's flatfishing fair, with individual scores running up to 15 to 20 fish per man. The fish range anywhere from ¾ lbs. up to 2 lbs. and a combination of worm bait and outgoing tide seem to produce the best action. Jim Francis took the pool on Saturday with a 2¼ lb. flattie. The captain reminded that the boat will be sailing a regular schedule on Easter Sunday.

BELLMORE

Merrick Tackle reports that customers came in reporting good flounder catches in Merrick Bay's Rowboat Alley on worm, clam and mussel baits but heavy on the chum. Flounders also being caught at the 3rd Wantagh and Haunts Creek to some extent.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** tell of super flounder fishing when the wind is down with best catches being in Rowboat Alley, the pole nearest to the end of the marina gas dock, Merrick Point. Sand worms have been catching best and the fish are mostly good sized.

Your reporter fished Rowboat Alley Saturday and Sunday and Saturday's best action was an hour on either side of the low. This developed into flurries of fish throughout the rest of

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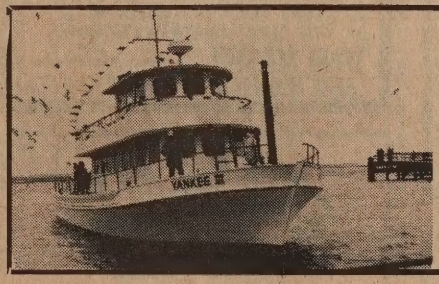

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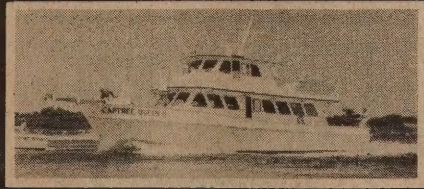

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the flood. The number of throwbacks were very small, almost nonexistent. A good solid catch was made by Frank and pal aboard his boat Merrick Outlaw. Sunday's catch was more picky due to the east winds. Note that heavy mussel chumming is a must.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station tells of good flounder catches all week in Middle Bay, Scow Creek and at Boces. The ocean side area of Reynold's produced well also. Catches have averaged 12 to 30 flounders a boat. Garrett's Lead has also produced. Fish are running from ¾ to 1 lbs.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

FREEPORT

Capt Mike of the **Capt Lou Fleet** says that on the all day boat the **Capt Lou III** on Monday's catch for 8 people was 200 flounders. (keepers) Thursday on the **III** Mike Zacettea of Kew Gardens had 31 keepers. Dick Kawamoto and Alex Brenner of the Bronx had 60 keepers between them. Russ Sabage of Springfield Gardens had 30 keepers while Charlie Otto of Franklin Square bagged 28 keepers. Mel Mowery of Stony Point pulled 32 keepers. Friday on the **III** Joe Fronczkowski of New Hyde Park bagged up with 50 keeper flounders while Irv Waldman of Oceanside had 45 and Charlie Martin of Bayside had 40 keepers. Stan Wernick of Roslyn had 38. Mike Fayer of Great Neck smiled with 46 keepers and Jerry Cohen of Forest Hills was satisfied with 45 keepers. The weekend was good but not as good as the weekday trips. Weekend high hooks were in the 30s on a full day boat from ¾ to 2¼ lbs. with a lot of doubles. Aboard the half-day boat **Capt Lou IV** catches were good all week with Howard Daberin of Forest Hills scoring with 26 keepers Friday. Plainview angler Sid Fein had 33. Sunday saw John Mocarski of Fresh Meadows take 22 keepers while Ray Christopher of Flushing had 19 and Mike and Steve Sikora of Franklin Sq. had 30.

Capt Al Lindroth of the **Capt Al** tells us that early in the week the flounder fishing was good but Friday, Saturday and Sunday it was fabulous. Catches averaging 20 to 25 big flounders a man. This was in the area of Squaw Island. Saturday saw Carmine Cesaruno of Freeport with 27 keepers. Charlie Payne was happy with 26

keepers. Fifteen yr. old Kent Smailos of Howard Beach scored with 31 good fish. The pool fish was 2 lbs. everyday with all fish running from ¾ to 2 plus lbs. Al says flounder picture looks excellent and the strong fishing shows no signs of letting up. Mussel and clam are working best.

The **Capt Bill** with his half-day boat reports plenty of action with fish biting light, especially on Sunday. A lot were lipped hooked. The ends of the tides had been producing best this week. Friday saw one passenger fill a 5 gallon bucket on a half-day trip. Catches per trip are running from anywhere from 4 to 12 fish on the average. Fifty percent are keepers. Best areas have been Baldwin Bay and north of the Loop Bridge. Mussels working best.

The **Blue Fin III** reports that he fished east of Squaw Island and had some flounders up to 2 lbs. This was a trip for Hanover Bank and the pool winner was C A Santacoroce. High hook was Joe McAllister of Staten Island. This was Saturday. The **Blue Fin II** with Tony Di Lernia at the wheel fished the Reynolds Channel and Long Beach area and had an excellent catch of flounder up 2 lbs. High hook was Walter Blohm of Flushing. This was a charter for the Xerox Corp. Worms and clam on the hook along with corn and clam chum did the trick.

Bob at **Hook, Line and Sinker Bait & Tackle** reports lots of flounder in Baldwin, Randall and Merrick Bays, at the Golf Course and Whaleneck Point. Dave Wong scored with 31 flatties at buoy 17, Reynolds Channel on worms, mussel and red clam. Chumming is a must. Bob says he has a huge supply of various combination chums in his freezer.

Capt Richie of the **Star Stream II** had a cod and pollack special Wednesday and had an astounding catch of cod up to 60 lbs. Dick Holaham had the 60 pounder along with two 40 pounders. Brian Coleman hung a 48 pounder. Jr. Bento had 17 cod up to 35 lbs. Larry McCall of Wyandanch scored with 14 cod, the two largest being 40 and 36 lbs. There were lots of others, many 30 and 40 pounders. This was all on clam. They also had a few pollack to 20 lbs., all on a distant wreck. Saturday's cod and pollack special saw a 65 lb. white hake caught by Jackson Hgts. angler Joe Camera. Joe Ronayne of Brooklyn had a 49 lb. cod. Gene Tripodo took a 42 lb. cod. Some pollack were also caught up to 40 lbs. Sunday's cod and pollack special saw cod caught up to 35 lbs. and pollack to 30 lbs. High hook was 10 fish. Fish hit bait and diamond jigs. The boat is now sailing 6:30 a.m. daily for macks, whiting, ling and blacks.

Super Spray II reports lots of flounders being caught on all the half-day trips sailed, including a lot of big fish. Fares are averaging 12 to 18 keepers. The boat is fishing local channels and creeks along with Reynold's Channel.

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Anthony's Fishing Station reports some very good catches Saturday. Two boats had 35 keepers each fishing between Freeport Creek and Highflat stream and also the Golf Course in Merrick Bay on worms, clam and mussel chum.

Charterboat **Acme II** asked us to call your attention to the fact that he is sailing half-day charters for flounder presently and will be doing the same for fluke. These will be morning and afternoon trips. See ad for details.

Charterboat **Nan Sea** called to say that he will be sailing his first flounder trip April 25th and that he is now booking charters for macks, flounder and fluke. Greg Nesito, formerly of Sea Isle Sports, and presently with Shakespeare Tackle, will be co-captain on the boat this year. The boat will be equipped with Shakeseare light tackle including ugly Stiks and featuring new Sigma line.

The **Capt Gary** sailed a group from the Chase Manhattan Bank for flounder on Saturday. High hook and pool winner was Baldwin resident Jim McDermott. Due to the poor weather the day's catch was just fair.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station says that the fish are really there! On nice days the catches are excellent. Two 2½ pounders were caught this week. On Sunday catches averaged 40 to 50 keeper flounders a boat even in the bad weather. Thursday saw Tom Camoya and Al Schwartz of Ridgewood take 50 flounders up to 2¼ lbs. Lou Fleicher and Al Peitronagro of S. Ozone Park had 60 flatties up to 2½ lbs. Best spot has been Reynold's Channel buoy 17 and 18, Seadog Creek and the flats off Reynold's in Middle Bay. Incoming has been best and also all around the changes of tide on mussel and worm and mussel chumming a must.

Charterboat **Marie III** had double Dozen Rod and Gun Club out on Saturday. Pool winner was Tom Wick with a 1¾ pounder. High hook was Al Zucker with 18 flounder. Best area was off the Golf Course in Reynold's Channel and the black banks off Island Park on clam and worm on both tides. Sunday's charter was for the Double T Fishing Club with over 200 keeper flounders. Andy Young was high hook as was Ray Donovan. Each had 22 flounders. Four yr. old Steve Delaney had 3 fish and 5 yr. old Brian Kearny had 5.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie at **Beckmann's Tackle** reports very good catches of flounders. On Saturday Dave Sparber and Dad fishing Bay Park at East Rockaway scored with 50 keepers from ¾ to 1¼ lbs. fishing in 30' of water using mussel and blood worms. Bob Kurtz fishing in Mattituck Saturday totaled 54 flounders from 1 to 3 lbs. on mussel and clam. Saturday saw excellent floundering all over the area with East Rockaway, the Point Lookout pier and the Long Island RR trestle at Island Park producing well.

Capt Clem of the **Commodore** reports very good flounder fishing from Friday on through the weekend, with fishing classified as super. On Saturday Tom Rupp scored with 33 flatties. Sunday saw John Trost with 28 fish. These ran ¾ to 1¾ lbs. The skipper has been working all around Reynold's Channel and the back of Baldwin Bay and he says fish are all over the place. Things were tough early in the week. The average catch is 20 flatties a man and Sunday's average was 15 to 20 per. Shark fishermen are really scoring.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Al at **Reynold's Reef Fishing Station** called to say that the flounders are going bizzerk at Duck Point, Woodmere Channel and off the Indiana Firehouse in Long Beach. Also the foot of the Atlantic Beach Bridge on both north and south sides are hot. On April 9th Artie Newman, Jack Kravitc, Dave Waxman fished 2 hrs. at Indiana Ave. Firehouse and got 41 flounder up to 2 lbs. using blood worms. On April 11th W. Sichman and daughter Debbie, 8 yrs. old, got 36 flounder using worm and mussel. Debbie got a 1½ lb. flounder herself.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina reports plenty of fish being caught. James Koch and wife had 35 flounders to 2 lb. 8 oz. at Duck Point. None were under a pound. JerrySicherman, Carol and Mike had 15 flounders to 1½ lb. fishing just a little over 1 hr. Hot spots have been the Cement Block, Duck Point, Cedarhurst Yacht Club and across from the new firehouse on Reynold's Channel. Worm/mussel combos have worked best and heavy chumming is a must.

JAMAICA BAY

Pat at **J-Bay Boat Rental** tells us that on Sunday one rental customer had 15 flatties in just 2½ hrs. and one boat on Friday took a dozen flounder on worms and mussel chum. This was at buoy 25 and at the mouth of a nearby canal.

Cross Bay Bait & Tackle reports that mussel and blood worm are doing a good job on flounders on both tides from both North and South Channel bridges. She is seeing fish from 1½ to 1¾ lbs. that are being brought into the store. One customer scored with 43 fish on the weekend. A few eels are also being caught.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Mike's Tackle tells of good flounder fishing by the boats working Rockaway and the Navesink River. Blackfish are being picked up on local wrecks so watch for the boats swinging over to blackfish. Its advisable to call beforehand and find out what the boats are going after.

The **Flamingo III** tells of fair flounder catches Saturday and Sunday with better anglers getting around 25 keepers a man. Catches ranged from 12 to 25 keepers. Sizes were better this weekend. The skipper says that weather is a definite factor in the size of a days flounder catch. The boat is sailing daily and Capt Walt sees continued good catches in the weeks to come.

Capt Butch of the **Zephyr** has been working flounders at Annandale, Staten Island and Sandy Hook Harbor. Fish are running up to 3 lbs. at Annandale with larger fish but fewer. For more active catch, the Sandy Hook Bay area is where they fished averaging 30 keepers a man from 1 to 1½ lbs.

Capt Mel Michaels of the luxury charterboat **Sandpiper** called to say that the boat has been completely refinished and refurbished and will be ready for executive charters beginning in May. New color TV, micro wave oven etc. make this a first class vessell. All the creature comforts. The boat will be fishing the USATT.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santos** tells of plenty of flounders with the hottest area being

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the Old Stapleton piers, numbers 8, 12 and 17 fishing through the holes or off the sides. Lenny says customers have been taking 50 to 60 fish a tide this way, from ½ to 1¼ lbs. on worms, flood tide best. From Great Kills Harbor to Princess Bay flounders have been steady but now have been getting fewer and smaller as the fish move out. Stripers from shorts to 5 pounders on worms at Gateway National Park from the top of the tide through low slack. Occasional stripers being picked from the Verrazano to Princess Bay on worms. Some scattered blackfish catches.

PECONICS & GARDINERS
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

GREENPORT

It's been a good flounder weekend says Capt Dave Brennan of the **Peconic Star** with very good catches at South Ferry at Shelter Island. Best action has been all around the changes of tide. Sunday's average catch was 25 keepers a man. High hook Sunday was Nat Singleton of NYC with 36 flounder up to 2½ lbs. Dave says things are coming alive in the Sound, particularly at Petty's Bight and he will hit that area hard on the weekend.

Capt John Raines of the charterboat **Blue Albatross** called to say that he sailed his first trip on Saturday for the Jackson Hights Anglers and got 200 flounders for their efforts. Al Schnoor took the pool with a 2 pounder. Runner up was John Bernardon with a 1½ pounder. Al was high hook with 115 flatties. Sunday's trip for the Neutocine Line Fishing Club saw high hook honors go to Steve McCarthy with 25 flounders. The group totaled 175 keepers. The 2 lb. pool fish was caught by Joe Hand.

AP White Bait Shop tells of a solid flounder weekend. Art says the **Peconic Star** started on Saturday for the season and had very good catches of 1 to 2 lb. flounders. Aboard the **Brand X**, Friday's pool winner was Barney Peterson with a 2 lb. winner along with 30 other flatties. Some mackerel in Peconic Bay, but nobody is trying for them. A private boat drifting off Truman Beach took a lot of 2 to 3 lb. flounders on mussel and worm baits. Good catches off South Ferry and East Marion. Fish are all over the place says Artie.

Capt George Porter of the **Brand X** reports excellent flounder fishing on the weekend. He says the fish bit like crazy and it gets better everyday. Earlier in the week South Ferry was the spot and he fished closer to Gardiners over the weekend. These are mixed fish up to 3 lbs. Pool fish are going 2½ to 3 lbs. and an average catch is 30 to 40 keepers. George says the fishing is excellent as to sign and is consistent. South Ferry area appears to be paved with fish. Gardiners is picking up and there should be fantastic floundering for the next month or so.

The **Capt Bob** reports an excellent week of flounder action. Saturday's catch was fair to good while Sunday was excellent with all fares averaging 20 to 30 keepers. Don and Dianie Becker were high hook with 56 flatties between them. Mussels worked best and the skipper says with calm weather this should be a dynamite weekend coming up.

SOUTHOLD

We had 25 boats out Saturday and 18 out Sunday, reports Ace from **Port of Egypt Fishing Station.** Those fishermen that stuck it out and sneered at the wind and the chop came back with 30 to 40 keepers per rental boat, with best catches off the Windmill at East Marion, fish from 1 to 1½ lbs. Goose Creek produced 50 good keepers for 2 men in one rental Saturday. Two of the skiffs Sunday worked South Ferry. Larry and Patricia Suskevich of Floral Park had 50 keepers including a 2 lb. 2 oz. flounder which is being submitted for a Skillful Angling Award. Another skiff had 47 keepers from the same area, fish up to 1½ lbs. Mussel and worm bait along with a strict necessity, mussel chum. Other good spots were Conklin Point and Smith Cove. A boat from the marina fished Petty's Bight on Saturday and came back loaded with flounders. As a result Ace is opening the Orient Point Station and it will be opened Wed. through Sun. for now.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt Jim's Fishing Station says that the rain and wind put a dent in angler's enthusiasm and very few people went out this past week. However, Friday one rental boat worked Cutchogue Harbor and had 24 fish from 1 to 2½ lbs. using sand worm on the hook and mussel chum.

MATTITUCK

Capt Jerry McGrath of the charterboat **Nostalgia II** called to say flounders are ready to break open. Fish are running 1½ to 2 lbs. and decent fish are being taken in good nu numbers by customers. Duck Pond Point was a very good producing on the weekend. Jerry says god weather can only improve the fishing in weeks to come.

AQUEBOGUE

Lots of flounder in the Sound says Warren at **Warren's Bait & Tackle**

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and the fish are nice sized. Roses Grove and Robins Island are producing fish up to 3 lbs. in the Sound. These fish are fat also. In the Bay the fish are running ¾ to 1½ lbs. and chumming is an absolute MUST. Mussel and worm on the hook and both tides are working.

NOYAC

Barbara at **Noyac Marina** tells us that on Saturday Nick and John Albert of Brooklyn along with 2 buddies fished Noyac Creek and kept 100 good flounders from ¾ to 1 lb. They also returned roughly another 100 fish. Worms on the hook and lots of mussel chum were the ticket. A trailered boat fished the bay Sunday off Gleason Point and returned with 60 keepers up to 2 lbs. on worm and clam chum.

PECONICS

Speck's Bait & Tackle informs us that Frank Rama and Bill Conforte of Queens had 48 flounder to 3½ lbs. Fish averaged 1½ lbs. on sand worm and mussel chum Friday. On Sunday buoy 7 at Amagansett was worked by Walt Bohnenberger and Jack Herman and 12 yr. old Walt Nicholson. They totaled 116 flounder, averaging 1 to 1¾ lbs. Walt bagged a 3¼ pounder, all on the ebb. Heddy slowed Sunday but is still producing. Sebonac Inlet and Three Mile Harbor Channel remain good as does Noyac Bay off the Monastery and Paradise Point north of Jessups. The store is now open 4 a.m. Saturday and 5 a.m. every other day. See ad for details.

SAG HARBOR

Chris at **Bayview Fishing Station** tells of 3 anglers from Massapequa who had over 100 keeper flounders on Friday fishing Gibsons with worm and mussel bait and lots of mussel chum. Incoming tide was best for anglers Bob LaRocca and Bill and Rich Meiheiefer. Cedar Point and the ferry have been very productive, as was Smith's Cove. Very good flounder catches, fish averaging 1½ lbs. Clams are working also and Chris advises that you take all 3 baits as the fish hit different baits at different stages of the tide.

Capt Artie Lach of the **Wilhelric II** tells us that on Wednesday the Clyle family of Sag Harbor had over 100 flounders. The boat fished between South Ferry and Cedar Point. Mussels worked best. Things slowed on Saturday with fares averaging 15 to 20 flounders per person. On Sunday the boat ran east for snowshoes but had to beat a retreat when the east winds hit. They did manage to get several flatties in the 2½ to 3 lbs. range on an ebbing tide at Promised Land.

THREE MILE HARBOR

Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station

reports despite wind and rain 10 boats got out Sunday and 12 Saturday. On Sunday Dennis Ravacke and buddies of N. Lindenhurst rented 5 boats and each came back with roughly 60 keeper flounders from 1 to 1½ lbs. fishing in the harbor in the channel by the station. Clam and worm as hook bait and mussel chum did it on both tides and they quite fishing when they ran out of bait. Really good fishing says Mrs. Cox with all boats loading up. Catches were a minimum of 15 to 20 a man, mostly keepers.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

MT. SINAI HBR.

Jeff of **Ralph's Fishing Station** reported good flounder fishing inside the harbor with catches of up 50 to 60 fish per boat being taken on worms and mussel chum. Fish range anywhere from throwbacks up to 1½ lbs.

PORT JEFFERSON

Capt John of the **Aqua-Gem** tells of an excellent Saturday's floundering. Walter Laman of Coram was high hook with 31 keepers. Matty Digilio of Bayside took the pool with a 2 lb. even fish. Saturday's average was 20 flounders a man, which dropped Sunday with the wind. Doug and Al Smith split Sunday's pool each taking a 2 pounder. Catches were fair Monday through Friday due to the winds and a calming of the weather can only bring much improved catches.

From **Caraftis Fishing Station**, John spoke of lots of flounder inside the harbor with many on the small side. Lots of the fish must be returned, but there are still enough to finish the day with a good catch of keepers. Bigger fish in the 1-2 lb. range can be found outside when the weather permits off of Flax Pond and White Beach. Worms and mussels have both been effective and mussel chum is very important for the bigger fish out in the Sound.

KINGS PARK

Bob from the **OK Tackle and Fishing Station** reported a good weekend for flounder in the Nissequogue River. On Saturday, Jim Potts had 35 flatties up to a pound using sand worms and bunker chum. Also on Saturday, Linda Lefkowicz, Bruce Bogachi, Tom DiBiase and Randy Rydzewski pooled their efforts to take

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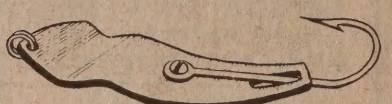

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40 flatties from 3/4 to 1½ lbs. inside the river. Fishing was done with worms. Bob added that some nice fish are beginning to show outside along the Sound beaches, but the wind has made fishing difficult.

HUNTINGTON

Ever Ready skipper Bill "Packy" Collins reports fewer fish taken this weekend but bigger ones. He is working the area off Eaton's Neck and the Lilco stacks. Saturday saw Emelio Noto of Oyster Bay deck a 2 pounder. Sunday saw Chris Nulty, the area rep for Fenwick and Penn, boat a 2 lb. flounder. Packy advises that he will be sailing Easter Sunday.

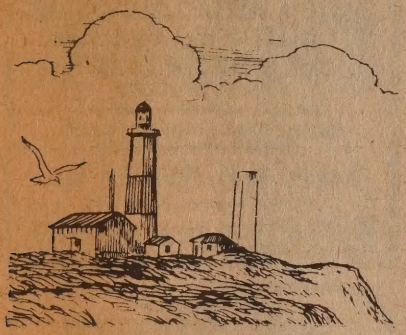
George Valentine speaking from his **Four Winds Tackle Shop** reported very good action with nice sized flatties out in the Sound during the week with good scores being made off of Eaton's Neck and Ashroken. The action slowed over the weekend, however. Loads of flatties in the harbor, but these fish are quite a bit smaller and many must be returned. Bass production at the power plant has been reduced to a trickle with just a couple of schoolies taken on worms and bucktails. George figures that the winter-over fishing has about had it.

GLEN COVE

Dave of the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** had some notable trout weighed in over the weekend. Stu Jablonski checked in browns of 2 lbs. and 2 lbs. 5 oz. on Saturday. Later in the day, James Miles put a 3 lb. 1 oz. brown on the scale. On Sunday, he returned with a 3 lb. 2 oz. brown and this fish now leads the trout segment of the shop fishing contest. All of the trout came from Oyster Bay's Mill Pond and night crawlers turned the trick in each case. Dave noted, however, that the Pond is popular with fly casters and they should take note that there was a hatch of gray caddis at the Pond late Sunday afternoon. Biggest fish of the weekend was an import. Young Jeff Pichler fished aboard the Freeport open boat **Starstream** on Sunday and returned to the shop to weigh in a cod of 34¼ lbs. Of the local flounder fishing, Dave described it as good whenever the wind does not hinder efforts of flounder fans. Fish are being taken on sand worms and heavy chum and stirring the bottom helps a

lot. Dave reminded that Monday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m. is movie night. Pre-registration is required and this can be accomplished with a phone call. A Fenwick rod will be awarded as the door prize.

The **Lady Lil** reports flounder fishing continues very good. A lot of small fish but enough keepers in between to give 10 to 20 keepers per man.



NORTH SHORE WEST END

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FLOUNDER

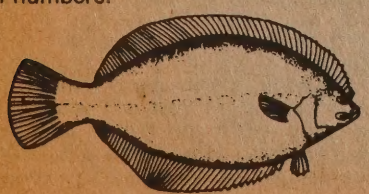
CITY ISLAND

The **Ebb Tide III** had a very good Saturday and Sunday on flounder. The boat fished Lloyd's and Huntington and had a solid catch of fish up to 1½ lbs. 75 percent were keepers. The other City Island boats fished the same general areas and did equally as well.

Jack's Bait and Tackle reported lots of flounder in Eastchester Bay, at Rodman's Neck, Harts Island and Orchard Beach. Fish range from 1/2 to 1¼ lbs. and are being taken on sand worms and mussel chum. First reports of bass came from Turtle Cove where two fish were taken on worms meant for flounder during the week.

NEW ROCHELLE

Capt Pete Pearson of the **Klondike VI** tells of loads and loads of flounder that his fares are catching averaging from ½ to 1¾ lbs. Pete says this is a super flounder year. There are also a lot of smaller fish, which of course insures good future fishing also. In any case, the fish are definitely there in numbers.



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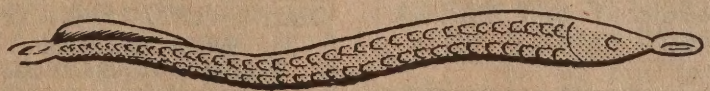

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SURF FISHING:

(*Continued from page 21.*)

oblige in the west end at this time, as well as in the mid-sector, while bass are stirring in the west end. June marks the migration of weaks and fluke, although the latter are caught sporadically. Meanwhile, the bass extend their range eastward. The summer months are devoted primarily to fishing for porgies in the day and for blues, weaks, or bass in low light or at night. Finally, autumn marks the return of the largest blackfish all along the Sound, as well as the largest porgies, while snowshoes are sought in the east end. September and October are also the best months to intercept large blues as they head east, before departing. November concludes the season with anglers looking for trophy bass.

Weather plays a significant role on the north shore, and perhaps this is one reason (aside from overkill by commercial draggers) why last year's fishing was so terrible. Generally, I catch the most fish on the north shore when the water is moderately rippled. Last year, unusually hot and dry, left too many days of dead, flat water on the Sound. It took me four trips just to make a decent catch of porgies, a species I normally rely on to offset scoreless quests for predators. Then, again, breezes from the wrong direction, particularly the northeast, are a wipe-out on the Sound. Thus, when autumn arrived—the peak of the season—these breezes suddenly became galloping gales for days on end, and ruined fall fishing on the north shore, if not throughout Long Island.

Normally, north shore fishing is more productive than last year. And certainly worth the effort, provided you discover your beach and learn how to work it.

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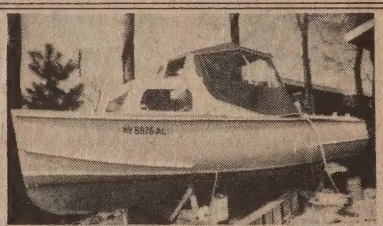

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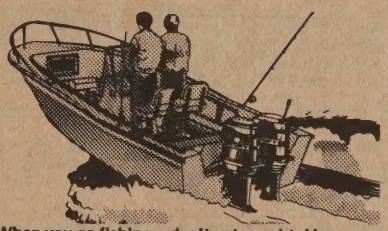

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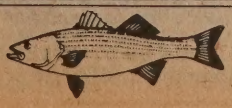

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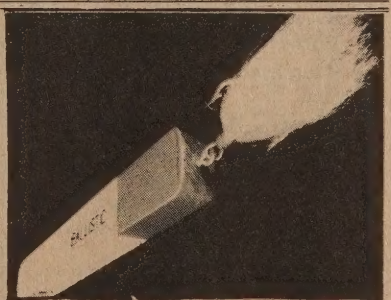

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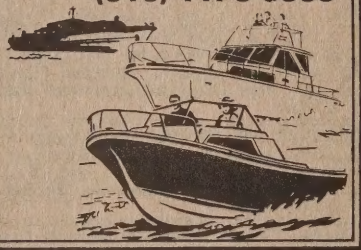

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$9.95 Satisfaction Guaranteed

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR.	5:50	6:15	6:50	7:10	6:30	6:55	7:35	7:55	10:05	10:25	9:25	9:40	5:40	6:00	4/16
FRI.	6:30	6:55	7:30	7:45	7:15	7:35	8:15	8:30	10:45	11:00	10:05	10:20	6:20	6:40	4/17
SAT.	7:10	7:30	8:05	8:20	7:55	8:10	8:50	9:05	11:25	11:35	10:45	10:55	7:00	7:20	4/18
SUN.	7:45	8:05	8:40	8:55	8:30	8:45	9:25	9:35	11:55	11:55	11:20	11:30	7:40	7:55	4/19
MON.	8:20	8:40	9:15	9:25	9:10	9:20	10:00	10:10	–	12:20	11:55	–	8:20	8:35	4/20
TUE.	8:55	9:15	9:50	10:00	9:45	9:50	10:35	10:45	12:10	12:35	12:05	12:30	9:00	9:15	4/21
WED.	9:30	9:50	10:25	10:40	10:20	10:20	11:20	11:25	12:30	1:00	12:40	1:10	9:35	9:55	4/22
THUR.	10:10	10:25	11:05	11:15	11:00	11:50	–	12:00	1:05	1:35	1:20	1:45	10:20	10:35	4/23

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Pontunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rocheele	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayett Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

4/17	5:17	6:44
4/18	5:15	6:45
4/19	5:14	6:46
4/20	5:12	6:47
4/21	5:11	6:48
4/22	5:09	6:49
4/23	5:08	6:50

Moonrise/Moonset

4/17	5:18PM	4:59AM
4/18	6:15PM	5:27AM
4/19	7:12PM	5:55AM
4/20	8:08PM	6:24AM
4/21	9:04PM	6:55AM
4/22	10:00PM	7:30AM
4/23	10:54PM	8:09AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
4/4	4/11	4/19	4/27

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for this week as printed below have been taken from the original ***KNIGHT SOLUNAR TABLES.*** Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type face.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	2:45	**8:45**	2:55	**9:10**
Fri.	3:25	**9:25**	3:35	**9:50**
Sat.	4:05	**10:05**	4:15	**10:25**
Sun.	4:30	**10:45**	4:55	**11:05**
Mon.	5:20	**11:30**	5:40	**11:50**
Tues.	6:05	—	6:35	**12:20**
Wed.	6:55	**12:45**	7:20	**1:05**
Thurs.	7:45	**1:35**	8:15	**2:00**

Daiwa Sealine vs Penn Special Senator.

By taking them both apart, you can see how Daiwa put together a better reel.

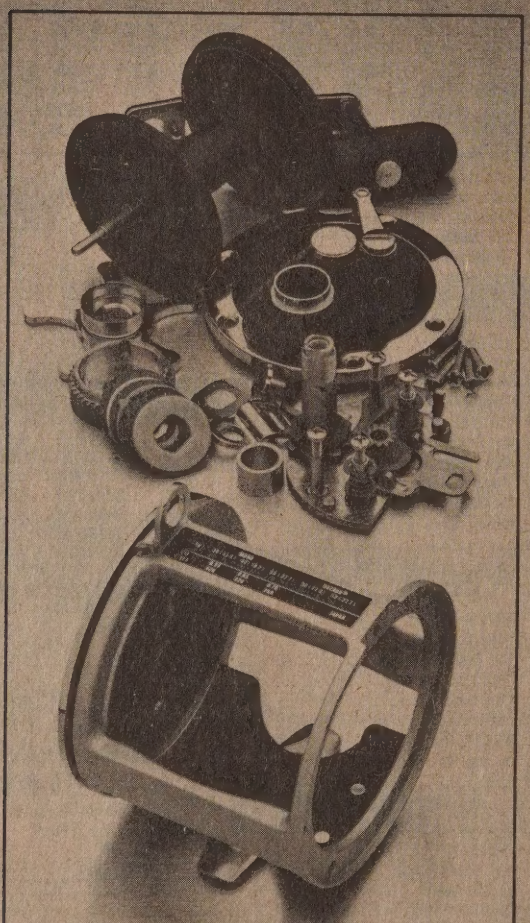
Sealine's one-piece anodized aluminum frame makes our reel lighter and stronger than Penn's.

Sealine's small parts are heftier to help make our reel last longer than Penn's.

Sealine has a smoother, more durable drag system than Penn's.

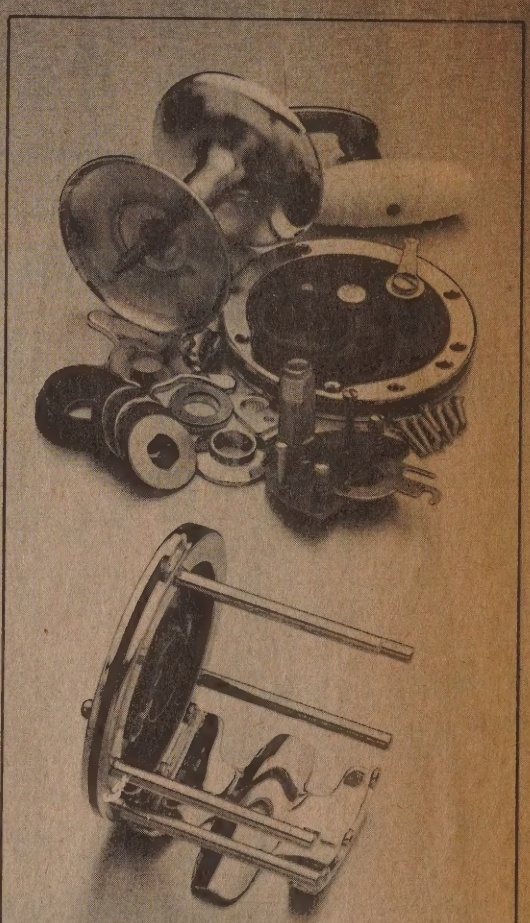
And Sealine is faster than Penn.

In short, you wind up with more reel for your money with a Sealine.



The Daiwa Sealine 400H*

- One-piece frame.
- Anodized aluminum side plates.
- Light, anodized aluminum spool.
- Drag system shielded against saltwater.
- Large, strong drive gear.
- Adjustable power handle.
- No conversion kit needed.



The Penn Special Senator 113H-4/0*

- Five-piece frame.
- Plastic side plates.
- Heavy, bronze spool.
- No shielding to protect drag system.
- 6% smaller drive gear.
- Power handle extra.
- Conversion kit extra.

Daiwa

NUMBER 1 IN THE WORLD • BY DESIGN

For more information and a free catalog, send a postcard to Daiwa Corporation, Dept. SE-80, 14011 So. Normandie Ave., Gardena, Ca. 90249.

*Comparison based on 1980 Daiwa Sealine 400H and Penn Special Senator 113H-4/0.